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FROM THE HEAD OF OFFICE

I am grateful to have spent another year together with the CITYNET Yokohama Project Office, participating in our diverse work with CITYNET members.

As in previous years, we have focused most of our efforts on disaster and education-related activities. As you will find in this report, there were four separate projects in Nepal and one in Makati.

This year, the CITYNET Executive Committee meeting will be held in Lalitpur, Nepal. As such, we hope that this will be an opportunity for members to better understand our current projects and the impact of the various capacity building programs that we have been supporting in Nepal. As capacity building is a long-term process, we will continue to work with Japanese counterparts to bring together experiences that may be useful in addressing our members’ needs.

Urban challenges have continued to increase, therefore it is even more important for us to collaborate to develop better strategies and solutions in addressing complex issues. To protect our future generations, smart planning of cities and programs has become inevitable.

With the commitment and support from the City of Yokohama, as well as other Japanese members and partners, we will continue our efforts and work together with CITYNET members. We will do this through city-to-city cooperation activities and partnership schemes in order to make cities better and more liveable.

We look forward to meeting with you in Yokohama.

Sincerely,

Teruhiko Okada,
Head of Office
I. WHO WE ARE
Our Objectives

a. Transfer of knowledge, expertise and experience from Japan, particularly from the City of Yokohama to members of CITYNET;

b. Respond to inquiries on CITYNET activities, particularly from cities, organizations, and the private sector in Japan;

c. Improve communications, networking, and seek working relations among the City of Yokohama, other Japanese cities and organizations, the private sector, and CITYNET members;

d. Work with CITYNET members to ensure a sense of ownership, responsibility, and integrity;

e. Decentralize CITYNET operations for better outreach and strategic support in order to improve human settlements in Asia and the Pacific.

Our Methodology

a. Working with Japanese counterparts, particularly with the City of Yokohama and developing meaningful projects and viable solutions for CITYNET members.

b. Sharing technical expertise, experience and knowledge to ensure appropriate and sustainable improvements to member cities.

c. Gaining direct access to some of the best practices in addressing urban issues in Japan.

d. Obtaining and sharing information on relevant programs with members.

e. Facilitating better knowledge exchanges.

f. Connecting with reliable partners.

g. Securing support for new program developments.

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO) plays an integral part in providing services and solutions for CITYNET members. It does this in the context of a wide range of urban issues faced by cities in the Asia-Pacific region. CYO focuses on services from Japan, particularly with the support of the City of Yokohama.
II. OUR ACTIVITIES

CITYNET Yokohama by the Numbers 2018-2019

Projects: 5
Meetings/Seminars/Forums: 4
Cities & Organizations: 11
Avg. Project Duration: 1-3 (years)
Training on Structural & Seismic Engineering

Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Funding Source: City of Yokohama, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC)
Objectives: To provide a capacity building program for the engineers of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office and support reconstruction efforts in response to the Great Gorkha Earthquake that devastated Nepal on April 25th, 2015.

Background: This was the final year of the 3-year training project coordinated between Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the City of Yokohama, and CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO) to support the reconstruction efforts of KMC. In 2012, as the lead city of the CITYNET Disaster Cluster, the City of Yokohama made a commitment through the “Yokohama Declaration” to support Asian cities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities. In 2016, Yokohama signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kathmandu following the 2015 earthquake. The goal of the MOU was to support reconstruction efforts in Kathmandu within the context of a CITYNET city-to-city cooperation project.

Numerous trainings were conducted in both Kathmandu and Yokohama to facilitate site visits, lectures, and workshops aimed towards improving construction practices, inspections, and sharing best practices between the cities. Participants, including engineers and architects, were able to learn how to improve the quality of materials used, encourage safer construction areas, and create stable and resilient buildings. After a series of workshops in both Japan and Nepal, one of the outcomes of the training will be the production of the House Owner’s Manual for Building Construction. Development of the manual will be supported by Yokohama and will include examples and technical advice gathered from participants. The final output is expected in June 2019.

Project Activities:
Training VII, March 2018, Yokohama

- Building construction inspection process and developing material to raise awareness of construction techniques.
- Media and promotion used to inform the general public on the importance of safe construction.
- Quality control of public buildings.

- Sharing best practices from Japan including safety checks, hiring practices, documentation, and recordkeeping.
- Final stakeholder discussion about next steps, program outputs, and goals of KMC and participating municipalities to improve inspections, safety, and quality control.

Monitoring Visit, January 15-18, 2019

- Sharing results of consultations to streamline the contents of the upcoming housing manual, including examples and inputs provided by representatives from KMC and Yokohama.
Makati DRRM Academy Project

Location: Makati, Philippines
Funding Source: Makati
Implementing Organizations: City of Yokohama, Plus Arts NPO
Objectives: To establish a formal DRRM Academy to facilitate the technical training of professionals and to raise public awareness of DRR in the same complex.

Background: CITYNET Yokohama Project Office and Plus Arts partnered with Makati City Government to support the establishment of the Makati DRRM Academy, which is expected to include a learning center for the public, a professional training center for first responders and a crisis and command center.

The infrastructure construction will be supervised by Plus Arts, and Yokohama will provide the necessary training for first responders as well as other professionals who are in charge of managing disaster-related programs and activities. The academy is expected to have practical learning facilities for various hazards through which visitors can understand the mechanisms of disasters, and experience and learn preventive measures. The academy aims to raise the awareness of Makati residents. It will also allow visitors from outside of the Philippines to learn about disaster risk reduction.

Project Activities:
Technical Assessment, March 7-8, 2018, Makati

- Rapid capacity assessment of the city’s Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Office (DRRMO) from Yokohama Fire Bureau and Crisis Management Office and review of training modules.
- Site visits to hospital facilities, search and rescue bases, and Bureau of Fire and Protection.
- Assessment shared with stakeholders in order to discuss findings.

Training I, September 1-7, 2018, Yokohama

- Sharing of the City of Yokohama's DRR measures and standards for evacuation centers and stockpiling in Japan.
- Providing technical guidance on organizational structure.

Training II, December 2018, Yokohama

- Training with Yokohama Fire Academy on safety management, discipline, and fire suppression tactics.
- Hands-on training for rescue tactics using firefighting gear.
- Training leaders to train in effective firefighting and facilitate team cooperation.

Study Visit to Chengdu Disaster Preparedness Learning Centre, January 2019

- Studying displays and exhibits at the Chengdu Center in order to help design an interactive facility in Makati.

“The firefighters in Japan have a great relationship with the community, and one of the biggest learnings from this workshop is the idea of promoting self-help and public-help amongst community members to create a safer city. Makati has a vision to advance their training practices by integrating international standards and perspectives.”

- Ms. Felda Rose Castro, Training Section Head, Makati DRRM Office.
Project to Promote School Club Activities on DRR

Location: Bhaktapur, Chandragiri, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Shankharapur (Nepal)
Funding: JICA
Participating Partners: Plus Arts NPO, INSEC
Description: Plus Arts and its counterpart in Nepal, INSEC, embarked on the second phase of a JICA-supported project to establish DRR clubs at schools in Nepal. The first phase of the project helped train Nepalese school teachers to develop their original DRR educational material in these pilot municipalities. A set of ten DRR educational tools have been developed and localized through the past trainings. They will be distributed to the schools with trained teachers, where DRR clubs are expected to be established later in 2019. 

DRR educational tool development is an arduous process in which each tool is tested by children for their feedback and suggestions. While the tools are designed to share knowledge on disasters and preventive methods, the contents of the tools can be altered to assist in teaching science and other related subjects.

Teachers in the five target municipalities greatly enjoyed developing materials and they will be the pioneering group of educators whose creativity is designed into educational products.

These may be disseminated to other schools and municipalities in Nepal. The students were thrilled to participate in the activities, using tools that allowed them to be physically active, creative, and use logical thinking while learning about disasters and preventive measures. The lessons included card games, quizzes, stories, and practical exercises about first aid and earthquake mechanisms. The tool kit is expected to be officially launched in July 2019 and distributed to all target schools in the five municipalities. The new DRR clubs will operate at the teacher’s discretion, with the aim to exchange knowledge through planned games and activities.
KDDI Foundation E-Learning Project

Location: Lalitpur, Nepal
Participating Cities & Partners: KDDI Foundation, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, OLE-Nepal
Background: To improve and support the learning environment in the Nepalese public schools, KDDI Foundation partnered with CITYNET Yokohama Project Office and OLE-Nepal to install 60 computers in three public schools in Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Nepal. The computers will provide students with access to over 6,000 books and over 2,000 videos, making the learning process more viable and exciting.

Transforming the textbooks into user-friendly illustrations and digitizing them was supported by OLE-Nepal, a local counterpart which specializes in producing digital libraries for children in Nepal. The project trains teachers how to use and deliver lessons through these programs that also help students understand difficult subjects and motivate further study. Lalitpur Metropolitan City received positive responses about the new facility, which KDDI, OLE-Nepal and CITYNET Yokohama Project Office plan to extend to other areas in Nepal for the next several years.

Mentor Training to Foster Logical & Creative Thinking Using ICT in Basic Education

Location: Lalitpur, Nepal
Participating Cities & Partners: Lalitpur Metropolitan City, KDDI Foundation, Miyagi University of Education, OLE-Nepal, Tribhuvan University
Participating Partners: Plus Arts NPO, INSEC
Background: Education in most Asian countries still follows traditional textbook and theory-based teachings, where academic progress is measured through graded examinations. In this context, identifying individual skills and talents is a challenge, and leads to widening gaps in educational achievements, opportunities, and growth.

Description: KDDI Foundation, with the support of Miyagi University of Education, introduced Nepal’s first mentor training where each student can tap into their creativity and talents. This three-year project focuses on robot programming as a tool to develop a sense of sequence-building, logic, and creativity in participating students. Computer programming and robotics are often considered to require university-level instruction and advanced technology. However, this program can be taught by those from any educational or technical background and can be delivered to elementary students. The program uses simple “blocks” to assemble and command small robots without any advanced knowledge of programming or computer science necessary.

The mentor training allowed teachers from Lalitpur, OLE-Nepal, and the Institute of Engineering at Tribhuvan University to create robots to perform simple tasks. They were then able to teach Grade 7 students how to use these devices within a two-hour class, engaging the students and increasing demand for similar programs in the future. Lalitpur Metropolitan City and stakeholders will continue to monitor these programs to evaluate how to further integrate innovative and hands-on educational practices into the regular school curriculum.
CITYNET Clusters Strategic Meeting

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 23, 2018
Participating Cities & Partners: Jakarta, HELP-O, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Yokohama, Barisal, League of Cities of the Philippines, HUDCO
Description: Kuala Lumpur City Government hosted the strategic CITYNET Clusters meeting to allow leads and co-leads of the Clusters to produce practical action plans that are achievable on an annual basis. This was the first occasion where the lead and co-leads of all four Clusters gathered together to develop plans, set goals, and assign responsibilities so that members can be better served.

Participants discussed potential ways to integrate Cluster activities and address cross-cutting themes from different angles. For example, the Disaster and Climate Change Clusters may be able to develop activities and solutions to address climate-induced disasters. The Disaster and Infrastructure Clusters may collaborate to explore opportunities to develop resilient infrastructure. Such cross-cutting themes could also help in mainstreaming DRR among city departments and within organizations.

11th CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar

Location: Iloilo, Philippines, August 2-4, 2018
Host: Iloilo City
Organizer: CITYNET Yokohama Project Office
Objectives:
I. To share better practices among CITYNET Disaster Cluster members
II. To strengthen city-to-city (C2C) cooperation in DRR
III. To understand local contexts to enhance applicability

Outputs: This seminar focused on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its application to projects and initiatives in cities. These priorities are: (i) understanding disaster risk, (ii) strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, (iii) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and (iv) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The Disaster Cluster Seminar promoted knowledge-sharing in DRR initiatives across departments in member cities in order to institutionalize proper planning, awareness-raising, and practices. The seminar further supported member cities by strengthening city-to-city cooperation and adapting practices to local contexts. CYO used self-assessment surveys to identify needs, concerns, and preparedness of urban stakeholders in member cities. Participants identified floods, earthquakes, and human-induced fires as the most common threats; and floods and human-induced fires as threats that are more frequent due to climate change.

The seminar produced the Iloilo Resolution for Action on Disaster Risk and signatories pledged to foster capacity building against natural disasters, to share evidence-based knowledge among stakeholders, to strengthen inclusive engagement between partners and to develop better strategies to address disaster risks in cities in the Asia-Pacific region.

As the rate of natural disasters increases globally, particularly in cities across this region, unseasonal weather patterns and hazards are becoming a serious threat to livelihoods, communities, and economies. This challenge requires collaboration among government agencies, local governments, academia, NGOs, and NPOs to develop innovative and practical ways to mitigate disasters and make long-term plans for knowledge transfer.
23rd CITYNET Japan Forum

Location: Yokohama, Japan
Funding Sources: CITYNET Yokohama Project Office
Objective: To disseminate CITYNET Yokohama Project Office activities to the public and stakeholders in Japan.
Description: The annual CITYNET Japan Forum demonstrated CITYNET’s international cooperation activities with the City of Yokohama. Held on February 6-8, 2019 in Yokohama, the 23rd CITYNET Japan Forum focused on the theme of “Impacts of Partnerships on Disaster Risk Reduction.” The Forum highlighted projects and programs where CITYNET is facilitating and strengthening disaster risk reduction programs with Iloilo, Makati, and the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) in Nepal.

Representatives from the Yokohama Fire Bureau, the Makati DRRMO, and NSET highlighted the importance of crisis management through simulated drills, structured training programs, and informal learning through experiential learning facilities. Numerous speakers stressed the need for technical cooperation and collaboration between partners to share global best practices and improve resiliency across the Asia Pacific region.

CITYNET Youth Japan Field Trip to Nepal

Location: Lalitpur, Nepal
Background: Members of CITYNET Youth Japan (CYJ), a group composed of Japanese university students, organized a field trip to Nepal in April 2018 to study disaster risk reduction activities.

CYJ members participated in a disaster prevention event at a local school and shared disaster prevention ideas and knowledge amongst students and participants. The school is one of the target schools in the Plus Arts Disaster Prevention Education and Material Development Project which integrates disaster preparedness knowledge and practices into the curricula of target institutions. Students participated in game-based knowledge exchanges, a demonstration on how to carry disaster victims, and how to correctly use emergency equipment based on prior training in Japan.

Members also held a discussion forum with a local youth association where they discussed post-disaster progress and the SDGs. Both sides presented their findings at the general discussion.

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office encourages youths in Japan to proactively engage in development issues to further knowledge exchange and encourage a collaborative spirit in the younger generations of Asia.

CYJ has previously traveled to the Philippines and Nepal.
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<td>July 23, 2018</td>
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<td>August 2-4, 2018</td>
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III. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Support & Revenue

Programs $64,032.40 USD
Administration $138,894.61 USD
Total Support & Revenue $202,927.00 USD

32% Programs
68% Administration
IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS

I. 2018-2019 Publications

• CITYNET Yokohama Project Office Annual Report 2018-2019
• 11th CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar Report
• Teacher Training on Primary Education in Sri Lanka 2017-2018

Interested parties can view printed and online material at www.citynet-yh.org or send feedback and requests regarding any of our public relations material to info@citynet-yh.org.

II. Internships

Interns play a very important role at CYO in terms of assisting project-related activities, including research, database creation, and information dissemination.

CYO has internship agreements with Temple University Japan and the Center for Asia Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) at the University of Victoria for student placements. Throughout the year, depending on vacancies, CYO receives interns from other Japanese and non-Japanese institutions who apply for specific terms and assignments.
CITYNET is an expanding network connecting local governments and urban stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region. CITYNET promotes capacity building and city-to-city (c2c) cooperation for people-friendly cities.