During the first week of November, CityNet’s 38th Executive Committee Meeting (ExCom) and International Seminar took place in Lalitpur, Nepal. The ExCom discussed the executive direction of CityNet for the coming years, as well as provided a platform for discussion of urban, social, and legislative issues between CityNet Members. The week also included two site visits, the first a walking tour featuring heritage sites of Lalitpur, and the second site visit to Bungamati, a municipality which suffered massive damages in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake.
The International Seminar portion, *Heritage and Sustainable Tourism*, held on November 8th gave Members the opportunity to share best practices on topics relating to tourism, including its impacts on environment, community, economies, urban development, and other important matters. A key objective of the seminar was to *provide a platform for participants to discuss the interrelations between heritage and tourism* and to *establish a basis for partnership among CityNet members* in regards to these matters.

Two technical sessions were held as part of the International Seminar to structure the discussion of best practices in heritage and tourism. The first was devoted to the ongoing project in Lalitpur, “Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlement of Kathmandu Valley” and expert observation from panelists. The second focused on best practices of those projects from members outside of Nepal: Denpasar and Taipei.

The Heritage Walk introduced what it is like to live within the heritage areas.

The Heritage Walk led participants through Lalitpur, stopping at important heritage landmarks throughout the city.

Rt. Hon. Nanda Kishor Pun welcomes CityNet delegates during the inauguration ceremony at a World Heritage Site in Lalitpur.

Yokohama City staff with Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur, during the ExCom Inauguration.

Mr. Kendra Hirata, Director of CityNet Yokohama Project Office, reports during the Excom.

Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur, during the ExCom Inauguration.
During the ExComm, **CityNet welcomed 16 new members**; 11 Full Member cities and 5 Associate Member organizations. The new Full Members are: Jambi City, Indonesia; City Government of Sorsogon, Philippines; Taoyuan City Government, Chinese Taipei; Gwangjin-gu, R.O. Korea; Jungnang-gu, R.O. Korea; City of Masbate, Philippines; Bheemdatta Municipality, Nepal; Guro-gu, R.O. Korea; Dhangadi sub-Metropolitan City, Nepal; Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Council, R.O. Korea; and Local Government Unit of Cauayan City, Philippines. New Associate Members are: Think City Sdn Bhd (NLO), Malaysia; Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NGO), Nepal; InnoCSR Co., Ltd. (Corp.), R.O. Korea; Lumanti (Memory) Support Group for Shelter (NPO), Nepal; and RMS Consulting Co. Ltd. (Corp.), R.O. Korea.

CYO extends its deep appreciation to the host Lalitpur Metropolitan City for their very warm hospitality as well as the Nepali members for their active participation at the meetings.

Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur, is greeted by the residents of Bungamati.

Ms. Archana Shrestha, Head of the Kathmandu Disaster Management Department, presents the outcome of the Yokohama-Kathmandu training.

Dr. Sangeeta Singh of Tribhuvan University responds to a question during Technical Session I.

Mr. Gordon Ching-Huei Yang of the Taipei City Government presents during Technical Session II.
II. CityNet National Chapter Nepal Meeting

During the ExCom week, the CityNet Nepal Chapter convened in a meeting to discuss their report and plan for the upcoming years. Prior to the meeting, CYO asked Nepal Chapter members to submit their priorities in each of the four clusters: climate change, disaster risk management (DRM), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and infrastructure.

Priorities of the Nepal Chapter on Climate Change largely centered on curbing development impacts on the environment, for example, by mandating Environmental Impact Assessments and controlling air, water, noise pollution and urban waste. In addition, Climate Change priorities included social approaches to mitigating environmental impacts through public, private, and community partnerships (PPC), increased research and studies in experimental labs, and inclusive DRM.

The Disaster Cluster was also a high priority for Nepal Chapter members, as Nepal is at a high risk of experiencing disasters caused by natural hazards. Key priorities of DRM discussed were the linkage of DRM and economy, developing agreements among cities for DRM Planning and Emergency Response Capacity Enhancement, having multi-hazard RA and RSLUP, designing a multi-sectoral and CBDRM approach to DRM, developing official and volunteer joint emergency response teams, and ensuring the sustainability of DRM efforts.

The UN SDGs identified most often as priorities by Nepal Chapter members were 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 16 (listed on right). Specific goals within these priorities include research studies, awareness and education, women empowerment and income generation, institutional development, community-based sustainable development, developing insurance mechanisms, and enhancing policy and guidelines.

The Infrastructure priorities of Nepal Chapter members include: urban waste management, transportation, electricity, communication, education, and health; safe construction of housing and heritage conservations; city beautification; integrating DRM into future developments; and enhancing fire brigades.

To meet these goals and priorities of the Chapter members, the upcoming two years have five key activities scheduled. These five activities focus heavily on community outreach, education, and C2C partnerships: conduct sharing workshops/seminars; develop/revive the official CityNet Nepal Chapter website; expand the Nepal Chapter network; explore opportunities for expanding relation with CityNet global network; and buy-in best practices and adopt in local contexts.

Mr. Hari Bahadur Mahat, mayor of Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City, presents during the Nepal Chapter meeting.
CITYNET Yokohama Project
Office supports the SDGs.