I. Galle receives Icon SWM Excellent Award 2019 for biogas to energy initiative

At the 9th International Conference on Solid Waste Management towards Circular Economy held in Bhubaneshwar, India, **Galle (Sri Lanka)** won the **Icon SWM Excellent Award 2019** for biogas to energy initiatives which was implemented by HELP-O in collaboration with IGES and CityNet Yokohama Project Office. Galle is a partner city of IGES Center Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET).

II. Students in Nepal show remarkable progress in adopting Disaster Risk Reduction Education (DRR Clubs)

Plus Arts and CityNet Yokohama Project office conducted a **final assessment of the DRR education project** that is being conducted in five municipalities (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Chandragiri, Shankharapur) earlier this month to measure the impact of the establishment of the DRR Education Clubs set up earlier this year.
Onsite evaluations including separate interviews with the students and the teachers as well as paper examinations were conducted in target schools of the five municipalities. The objective was **to measure their understanding of DRR as well as to compare the knowledge between those who were the members of the DRR Education Clubs and the non-members.**

Initial results have indicated that the club members had joined the clubs due to their **strong personal interest** of the subject matter and the **desire to share DRR prevention practices among their family members.** It also showed that the students were well aware of the process of handling items during emergencies such as blankets as stretchers, first aid using locally available material, making paper dishes and preparing go-bags.

Interviews with the teachers also indicated that **positive behavioral changes** such as being able to communicate better with other students, eagerness to teach their parents about DRR prevention, not being shy to stand in front of the class and talk, developing own games for DRR and find a purpose to continue being a club member were some of the concrete indicators of the impacts of the club activities.

The project initially supported by Toshiba International Foundation in 2015 has grown to include more municipalities and was granted as a JICA project in 2016 which continues to 2019. Another 3-year term by JICA has also been granted and expected to further outreach more schools in and out of Kathmandu valley from 2020.
II. Nepal’s first Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center showcasing Japanese disaster prevention (Bosai) practices inaugurated

Nepal suffered a devastating earthquake (Gorkha Earthquake) in 2015. Over 9,000 people lost their lives with thousands of buildings and schools partially or completely destroyed by the tremors. The path to recovery over the past four years have been supported by many international agencies, organisations, individuals and bilateral support mostly to reconstruct the necessary infrastructure. However, the lessons learnt and memories of the devastation is quickly fading away as time progress. This phenomenon is not new to Nepal and in order to pass on the vital messages to the next generations as well as to learn the past lessons well for better mitigation and prevention, a continuous learning process and a supporting facility is essential.

On December 1, 2019, CityNet Yokohama Project Office with the support from Plus Arts and Toshiba International Foundation inaugurated Nepal’s first Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center which includes sharing of the Japanese disaster prevention culture “Bosai” and the exhibit that not only display disaster related material but can give ideas for further development of tools as well as services.

The center which is the first of its kind in Nepal is expected to serve as a platform not only to remember past disasters but also to provide ideas for creative and innovative development of tools and equipment which may
be locally produced in Nepal for enhancing safety at households, schools and offices.

The center consists of three main sections as below:

**Orientation room** – This is the first room a visitor will enter to receive information on Japanese “Bosai” culture which has three main principles, **Self-help, Mutual-help and Public-help**. The activities and planning that go with these principles are then explained through a video.

Self-help focuses on the ultimate safety for yourself without which mutual help may not be possible. This part also covers the prevention techniques that one can undertake on a regular basis including preparation of go-bags, skills for basic first aid and understanding hazards.

**Disaster History room** – Once the orientation on disaster prevention is given, visitors then move into the Disaster History room where the six most common hazards of Nepal are displayed on posters—earthquake, flood, landslide, lightning, fire, storm.

The room also features the record of disasters that have happened in Nepal and the graphical illustration of how magnitude is understood in terms of scale. The posters also illustrate before-during-after of the hazards so that visitors can learn steps in mitigating the disasters.

**DRR Exhibit room** – This is the larger of the three rooms which consist of various DRR related material including the games and educational tools that were developed by Nepalese teachers through the 3-year training process provided by Plus Arts. The room also features a corner displaying the contents of the go-bag. Both the educational material and the go-bag are localized into Nepalese context from the samples learned from Japan.

The exhibit also includes Japanese emergency items including food stock as well as material that may prevent injuries at home from falling furniture and objects. Simple yet effective as well as practical solutions that are replicable in Nepal are on display.

The center was developed through multiple support from individual donors, architects to engineers, DRR experts and design studios from Japan and Nepal. All wooden display material including the tables were made by local carpenters who underwent trainings from a Japanese architect on making the furniture.

The center is expected to be open to the schools, government officials and for trainings from early 2020 and will be a platform for enhancing the learning process of disaster prevention to all Nepalese citizens.

**III. CityNet Yokohama works with Yokohama Fire Bureau EMS team on improving communications with non-Japanese.**

On December 11th and 12th, CYO staff and the Yokohama Fire Bureau’s Nishi Fire Station collaborated for a second training in assisting non-Japanese speakers. As Yokohama has a large international
population and often hosts international events, the Yokohama Fire Bureau is increasingly responding to situations in which foreigners need assistance.

The first training session was held in June, before the Rugby World Cup, and this second training is in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as well as for many upcoming international conferences and events.

This two-day session was aimed at familiarizing EMS with different methods and techniques which they can use to communicate effectively with foreign patients and their families. One such technology is “VoiceTra,” a speech translation application that can translate between Japanese and 31 other languages. First responders also used visual aids, such as translation boards, medical phrase books, and gestures to assist them during the training scenarios.

CYO staff acted as English-speaking patients in several different scenarios, posing different challenges to EMS personnel to provide efficient care despite language barriers. Scenarios ranged from an intoxicated patient refusing treatment to an elderly man who had suffered a fall and was unconscious.

The Nishi Fire Station personnel adapted quickly to each situation despite any communication difficulties they may have had. Using the communication tools at their disposal, EMS teams worked to diagnose, treat, and keep the patient informed during each simulation.