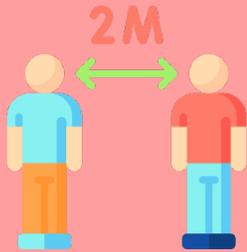


LET'S STAY SAFE  
THIS WINTER



WEAR MASKS

- I. Award winning certification program on DRR education shared by Matsuyama city at CityNet Urban Resilience Forum
- II. 6<sup>th</sup> training on DRR Education completed for Nepalese municipalities
- III. CYO presents at International Resilience Forum Seoul 2020



MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE



WASH HANDS REGULARLY WITH



AVOID CROWDS

*This holiday season is different for most of us. In order to staying safe and to help reduce the burden on the health workers, let us all contribute to minimizing the spread of Coronavirus by wearing a mask when going out, washing hands regularly with soap, maintaining social distance if you have to meet with people and not getting together in groups.*

*Icons made by smashicons, freepik, Surang, Dinosoftlabs from www.flaticon.com*

### Call for project concept papers

CityNet Yokohama Project Office calls for project concept papers for a **grassroots priority project** that CityNet member wishes to implement. Details and deadline for the concept paper is as follows:

- Concept paper – Maximum 2 pages. Must contain **Location, Priority issue, Objective, Target group, Proposed activities, Expected output**. Expected duration of the project will be 3 years.
- Expected local counterparts – May include city departments, regional, national and international agencies
- Deadline to submit – **January 31, 2021**

Shortlisted concept papers will receive a notice for a meeting to develop a full proposal with CityNet Yokohama Project Office. Please send the concept paper or inquiries to [kendra\[at\]citynet-yh.org](mailto:kendra[at]citynet-yh.org)

### Holiday Greetings!

CityNet Yokohama Project Office wishes all CityNet members, partners and friends  
a safe and pleasant holiday season.

Please stay safe!

## I. Award winning certification program on DRR education shared by Matsuyama city at CityNet Urban Resilience Forum



Matsuyama city, a **new member of CityNet** since October this year presented on their initiatives on disaster risk reduction education that the city has been conducting to certify its residents as a “**Bosaishi**”, which is a local expert on disaster prevention. To date, Matsuyama city has certified more than 5,300 residents which is the largest number among all the cities in Japan.

The certification program can be enrolled by people from all backgrounds, occupation and ages to take part in the city funded program. The program also encourages females to actively engage in disaster prevention activities.

Matsuyama city has also introduced a certification program for private companies who wish their employees to be trained for the Bosaishi course. More than 300 companies have been certified by the city. **This certification program for the private companies is the first of its kind in Japan.**

For these efforts, Matsuyama city has received **two prestigious awards** from the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport as well as the Prime Ministers’ Office in 2019.

In addition, in collaboration with Ehime University also located in Matsuyama, university students have

qualified as Bosaishi and they are being trained as disaster prevention leaders. The city has also set up Matsuyama Bousai Leaders Training Center at Ehime University with the aim to develop Japan’s first ‘all generation disaster prevention education’.

**Takahama Voluntary Disaster Prevention Association (June 6, 2019)**  
**Award for Distinguished Service in Landslide Disaster Prevention**  
(Awarded by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)  
**Distinguished Service Award for Disaster Prevention**  
(Awarded by the Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister of Japan)

[Torrential rain of July 2018]

- Debris flows and landslides at 35 sites in the area
- **11 residential houses completely/partially destroyed**
- **Volunteers visited each house, leading to early evacuation**
- **The community helped save precious lives**

■ Annual emergency drill in cooperation with the fire department, police, and schools (over 1,000 participants)

**Emergency drill**

Community members know each others' faces

People react to others in the community

The community helped save lives

## II. 6<sup>th</sup> training on DRR education completed for Nepalese municipalities



The sixth and final online training on using DRR educational tools for the teachers of **Biratnagar, Bheemdatta, Dharan and Hetauda** concluded this month. A total of 8 games have been introduced and practiced online by the participating teachers.

The tools were designed and produced in Nepal by local teachers who were the beneficiaries of the JICA funded project implemented by Plus Arts and CityNet since 2017. **The original tools and games were introduced from Japan by Plus Arts and localized in Nepal.**

Schools in Nepal have been closed since February this year due to the pandemic with the local governments given the authority to open them at their own discretion last month. Despite the closure, the teachers have been enthusiastic to utilize their time to learn new skills. By combining the pioneering group of teachers with the second batch, peer learning for understanding BOSAI (Japan’s disaster prevention practices) is expected to be enhanced along with strengthened bonding among the teachers from various parts of Nepal

The dissemination of DRR education to rural municipalities in Nepal is supported by **Toshiba International Foundation**.

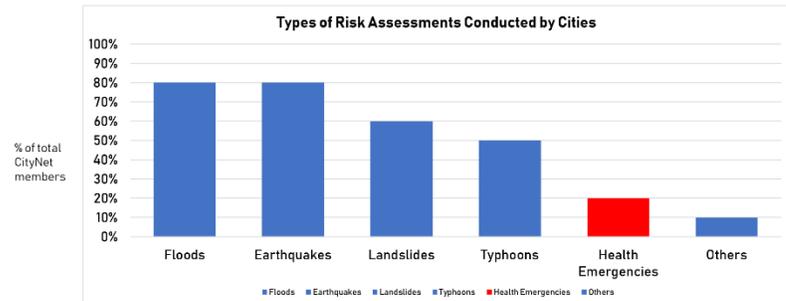
### III. CYO presents at International Urban Resilience Forum Seoul 2020



Seoul Metropolitan Government hosted a hybrid International Urban Resilience Forum this month addressing the concerns of the pandemic. Key note speakers included **UNDRR's Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Ms. Mami Mizutori**, who highlighted the critical **need for the local governments to work on disaster risk reduction** and called upon cities to participate in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign 2030 (MCR2030) of the UNDRR.

On the occasion, Director of CityNet Yokohama Project Office Mr. Kendra Hirata shared the **concerns of mental health and psychological impacts** stemming from COVID-19 globally. He shared the results of the annual CityNet Disaster Cluster Survey which pointed out to the low levels of awareness particularly on the health emergencies and **low risk assessments** on the subject conducted in member cities.

#### Risk Assessments



As the governments are overwhelmed with the immediate response to the increasing cases, the side-effects of the pandemic in terms people's livelihood and psychological impacts have not been fully captured. While local governments have put high emphasis on improving DRR framework and strategies, the pandemic has triggered an **urgent need to integrate health emergencies as a core part of the DRR prevention, mitigation and response plans**.

To conclude his presentation, Mr. Hirata emphasized on the effort to focus on **sustainable resilience** which requires enabling the communities to develop their own mechanism so that local protocols and actions can be swiftly taken when the crisis arises. Also, equally important is for each individual to recognize the **positive impacts from the pandemic**. While it is natural for people to highlight negative impacts from the crisis, the pandemic has made people realize the importance of having clean air, community bonding, heightened public health measures, opportunities and the appreciation of life among many others.

Through CityNet Yokohama Project Office and the partners in Japan, efforts to assist CityNet members to tackle increasing urban complexities will continue particularly at the grassroots level so that it will connect to the local government DRR framework and ultimately to the global agenda to ensure safe and resilient cities for the people.

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CITYNET Yokohama Project Office  
supports the SDGs.