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Due to the record breaking heavy rain in Japan, many areas have been damaged by floods and landslides. COVID-19 has further complicated response to the victims.

ANNOUNCEMENT

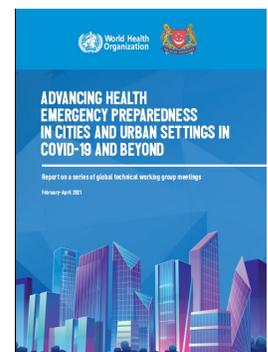
The 14th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar is scheduled for **November 10th, 17th and 24th, 2021.**

The invitation and a program outline will be sent to all CityNet members shortly. Program contents will include the priority topics requested by members in the Disaster Cluster Annual Survey 2021.

I. WHO releases Report on Advancing Health Emergency Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings in COVID-19 and Beyond

The report on [Advancing Health Emergency Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings in COVID-19 and Beyond](#) has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

CityNet Yokohama Project Office was one of the members of the technical working group invited to share inputs on urban preparedness for health emergencies and disaster risk reduction particularly focusing on the capacity of the local governments. The report has been published after several sessions of technical working group meetings hosted by the WHO in collaboration with the Republic of Singapore.



II. Schools from Nepal and the Philippines engage in an online exchange on DRR initiatives with a Japanese school in Amagasaki

As a part of online exchange project on disseminating bosai education and culture from Japan to CityNet member cities, **Yurikaguin High School** based in Amagasaki city near Kobe shared their DRR initiatives to students from Nepal and the Philippines. The exchange was also shared live on [Facebook](#) which has over **8,000 viewers**.

Both graduates and current students at Yurikaguin along with their instructors shared the history of disasters around Amagasaki which includes the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (Kobe earthquake), their activities in school which is based on Iza! Kaeru Karavan!, first introduced by Plus Arts and a video based quiz on preparedness. Yurikaguin is a girl's high school in Amagasaki.

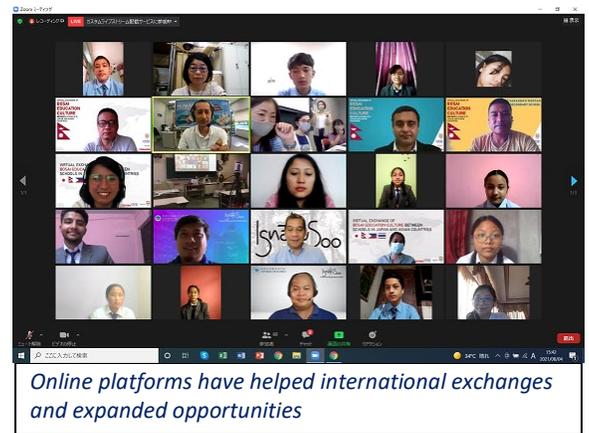
From Nepal, high school students from **Kathmandu** and **Lalitpur** joined the online session with their teachers. Students from **Iloilo city** along with the members from **Iloilo City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office** also joined the session. Representatives from **E. Yusay Memorial School** and **Ateno de Iloilo** also joined the program.

The session was opened by the Chairman of **Plus Arts**, Mr. Hirokazu Nagata who expressed his appreciation to all the schools from Japan, Nepal and the Philippines for joining the session to learn from each other amid the pandemic and when schools are still closed in Nepal for over 15 months. He expressed hope that such exchange will further inspire students from all three countries to connect for enhancing learning opportunities as disasters become more unpredictable and are intensifying each year.

Yurikaguin shared stories from the past disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 which triggered a massive tsunami that resulted in mass casualties. They shared how DRR activities in schools and communities can be sustained in collaboration with the private sector or NGOs whose financial support is critical in organizing the activities. Towards the end of their presentation, the students also shared how simple slippers can be made from newspapers or magazine papers which can be used in evacuation shelters to maintain hygienic conditions.

On the occasion, **Iloilo city Councillor** Hon. Julie Grace Love Baronda wrapped up the session expressing her gratitude for Yurikaguin High School for sharing important and interesting examples on DRR. She highlighted the fact that Japan is a high-risk country yet the safest which is because of high levels of preparedness and mitigation. Coun. Baronda added that this is possible if we share the necessary knowledge and train ourselves with the required skills which is what this online exchange is offering.

The next exchange is scheduled for **September 10th** broadcasting live on CityNet Yokohama Facebook from **Kamishirane Elementary School** in Yokohama.



III. Update on e-learning project using shared technology in Lalitpur



Tablets have helped public school students in Lalitpur continue online education from home.

In collaboration with KDDI Foundation and Open Learning Exchange Nepal (OLE Nepal), tablets containing school curriculum and other educational material were distributed to public schools in Lalitpur in 2020. Due to the pandemic, schools had remained closed for more than a year in Nepal but in recent months, some have opened to start online classes.

All six schools selected for the project have resumed the academic year, and are currently enrolling students and distributing the books. They are also conducting online classes. It has also been learnt that all the schools are strictly following the tablets shared-model between the students of grades 4-8. They rotate the tablets on a 7-10 days basis. There has been an increment in the number of tablets being used by students. Few of the students who live nearby the school have also started to visit the school.

While full resumption of regular classes is still far due to the continuously rising cases in Nepal, the schools and the students who have been fortunate enough to carry out online classes have gradually resumed education which is critically needed.

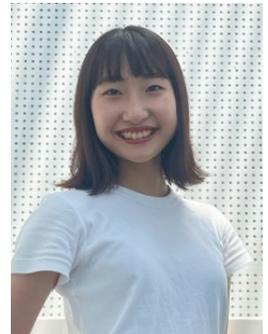


IV. CityNet Yokohama Project Office welcomes a new intern from Yokohama City University

Despite the ongoing pandemic and disruptions in education, CityNet Yokohama Project Office has been able to maintain the internship programs with partnering universities. From this month, a new intern from Yokohama City University has joined the internship program which is expected to be conducted remotely.

Ms. Hinata Shimizu is a third-year student studying International Relations and Politics at Yokohama City University. She is researching mainly in the areas of global issues, democracy, diversity, and gender studies for making this world a better place.

At the CYO, she wishes to learn various about how to work on a practical level to solve global issues and to maintain solidarity among various actors. She aims to support in disseminating CYO's activities and creating opportunities for people through collaborations. Ms. Shimizu also hopes to learn more about public relations work while at CYO.



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