

1. DRR Club activities shared by Nepalese high school students to Japanese students
2. Navamindradhiraj University Students share their emergency response skills with Matsuyama
3. CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar highlights strong need to accelerate the implementation process of DRR programs

Urban oasis and nature parks are becoming equally important in big cities to help citizens take part in recreational activities particularly during the pandemic.

I. DRR Club activities shared by Nepalese high school students to Japanese students

As a part of the ongoing virtual exchange on promoting DRR Education (Bosai) culture to Asian countries, high school students from Nepal presented their DRR education practices to the high school students of Matsuyama city through an online exchange.

High school students from **Bhassara School in Lalitpur** presented on their DRR Club activities which included exercise-based awareness raising program on earthquakes as well as pictures of activities of the club activities undertaken at the school. During the exchange, students from **Matsuyama Higashi High School** and **Matsuyama Technical High School** keenly observed the practices conducted in Nepal and also participated in the physical DRR exercise following the lead of the Nepali students.

Matsuyama Higashi High School students also share their research activity which compared earthquakes in Nepal and Japan. In particular, they compared the 2015 Gorkha earthquake (M7.8) and 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake (7.0) which were similar in magnitude but caused much more structural damage as well as casualty in Nepal. In the findings, they pointed out that one of the primary causes of high casualty rate in Nepal was due to how buildings were constructed.

The students from Nepal took this example of comparison by Japanese students as a useful hint on how simple research can be undertaken by the students themselves after such online exchanges which contributes to further development in knowledge enhancement of the subject,

II. Navamindradhiraj University students share their emergency response skills with Matsuyama

A second online exchange between the students from Navamindradhiraj University in Bangkok and high school students in Matsuyama were conducted to share DRR practices from Bangkok. Despite being university students, they undergo special training in coordination with Bangkok Metropolitan City Fire Department to be able to assist in actual emergency situations including fire, flood, wild animal attacks among others.

The students from Bangkok shared videos of their drills and footage of actual situation responding to floods in greater Bangkok area. During floods, some of the key response work includes relief aid distribution to the affected population, providing evacuation support to local residents, and coordinating with the local response teams and fire departments.

The Japanese students expressed their keen interest in their activity followed by discussions during the exchange. Students from Matsuyama Higashi High School also share their comparative analysis of flood related incidents between Bangkok and Japan. They noted that as Bangkok and its surrounding areas are plain areas without much elevation, once the flowing occurs, it is difficult for the water to recede and takes much longer than in other flooding.

The Japanese students also found the practice of students from Bangkok undergoing trainings in handling reptiles. As incidents of snake bites and injuries from other dangerous wild animals are common during floods in tropical countries, it is essential to understand the risks properly and to be able to prevent such incidents from happening.

Final exchanges between Bangkok and Matsuyama students are expected in early 2022.



Students from Navamindradhiraj along with the Dean and professors attend the online exchange with Matsuyama.



Students from Matsuyama Higashi High School take part in discussions with students from Bangkok.

III. 14th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar highlights strong need to accelerate the implementation process of DRR programs

The 14th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar held online brought together experts, practitioners and city leaders to discuss contents on three thematic areas selected from the responses of CityNet Disaster Cluster Survey 2021. A full report on the three sessions will be published shortly but below are the highlights and key points from each session:

Session 1: Role of Cities in Urban Health Emergency Preparedness with a Risk Management Approach

The opening session included panelists and commentators from the World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Health of the Government of Singapore, Makati City Government, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). Moderating the session, Dr. Rajib Shaw from Keio University highlighted the following key points:

The **first point** was that, while the pandemic is a global issue, the responses are local and therefore the cities need to customize its strategies to deal with the issue.



The **second point** was about governance. To deal with the pandemic, local governments need to have new ways of adaptive governance using science and technology as the traditional approaches may not work.

The **third point** was how we blend the new technology with the governance issue. As health emergencies like the pandemic requires outreach at every level of society, we need to utilize both traditional ways of risk communication for the vulnerable groups as well as the more advanced methods for those who are adept at it.

The **fourth point** was to ensure good and dependable health care system during normal times so that in emergencies, the response is faster and better. Equally important was the application of knowledge from the past experiences such as SARS and MERS as shared by Singapore and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The **fifth and the final point** was that while cities may make regulations and policies, it is ultimately the people's behavior that will lead to results. Therefore, it becomes particularly important in the urban areas that people are clearly aware of the risks, understands their role and contributes to minimizing further risks through their behavior and actions.

Session II: Making Cities Resilient 2030

The panelists for this session included representatives from UNDRR, Makati City Government, Province of Potenza (Italy), World Council on City Data and Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center.

As summarized by Atty. Violeta Seva at the end of Session II as the moderator, the main points were as follows:

First, the importance of advocacy is still high but now we should be focusing on implementation and action as well.

Second, we need to understand the risks better and implement better which can be achieved through participatory ways of involving multi stakeholders and with the support of the elected leaders.

Third, the link between national and local gov is critical for scaling up good practices.

Fourth, a setup of a permanent knowledge sharing platform and investment is very important and so is the fundraising activities.

Fifth, we need investments also in standardizing internationally certified data for science and evidence-based decision-making performance monitoring and planning.

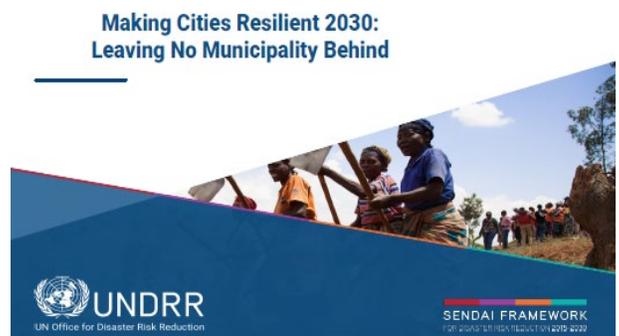
And, the final point was also on investments but on innovative and useful technologies for raising awareness and community engagements.

Session III: Saving Cities and its People with ICT and Data Driven DRR

The panelists and commentators for this session included experts from The Tokyo DRM Hub of the World Bank, Bandung City Government, Seoul Institute of Technology, Taipei Fire Department, Yokohama Fire Bureau, Geoscience Australia and RMS Consulting.

The key point summarized by moderator Dr. Markeza Cathalina Reyes were as follows:

Cities are doing their best in terms of using ICT, data analytics, and disaster risk governance in pursuit of urban resilience. Tools and technologies are becoming part of risk governance system of cities now and with it social inclusivity it also being enhanced. Technologies are important tools and at the same time leadership focused on strengthening DRR is also



very essential. Risk governance also needs to include a diverse group of stakeholders to make is more collaborative and people-centered.

Further details and report will be available shortly.

International Organizations Center 5F, Pacifico-Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato Mirai Nishi-Ku, Yokohama, JAPAN 220-0012

TEL:(+81)-45-223-2161

E-mail: info@citynet-yh.org

<http://www.citynet-yh.org>



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