

Call for Participation

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Roses are celebrated as the official flower of Yokohama, symbolizing the city's history as one of the first Japanese ports to be opened to the world, and thousands of strains bloom in parks across the city from mid-May to early June.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

As a part of CityNet Cluster Grant activity for 2022, Plus Arts with the support of CityNet Secretariat will be organizing three consecutive live online sessions on **Japanese Case Studies of Creative Approaches Towards Strengthening Societal Resilience** open to all CityNet members on the following dates and times:

Course 2: Wednesday, July 27 – Enhancing Resilience with the Private Sector

Course 3: Wednesday, August 31 – Creative Approaches for Addressing Urban Social Issues

Time: All three courses will be from **4:00PM – 6:00PM Japan Standard Time**

Please register below:

<https://bit.ly/3yORex4>

I. CityNet Yokohama contribution highlighted during UNDRR Global Platform session

The seventh session of the UNDRR Global Platform (GPDRR 2022) hosted by the Government of Indonesia was held in Bali, Indonesia from May 23-28, 2022 with more than 5,000 delegates participating on site. The conference emphasized on the need for all DRR stakeholders to accelerate actions on the ground to strengthen resiliency across sectors. Among the key points youth engagements and multistakeholder partnerships were mentioned in several sessions.



During the conference, a learning lab on Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments (SFVC) highlighted CityNet Yokohama Project Office's (CYO) contribution to share various DRR projects that the office has undertaken since its establishment in 2013. At the time of the session, CYO's commitments were the highest in number which were submitted to the (SFVC) globally. The CYO projects introduced in the SFVC Report includes those conducted in Nepal, Japan and the Philippines with stakeholders such as JICA and Toshiba International Foundation among others. The report can be viewed through the following link:



Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitment Report

<https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-voluntary-commitments-synthesis-and-analysis-report-2022>

The government of Japan also recognized the need to work across sectors to scale up DRR work and expressed its commitment to fund DRR activities in the coming years as well. The details can be found in the statement below:

Official Statement by Japan

<https://globalplatform.undrr.org/publication/official-statement-japan>

II. Students from across Asia sign on to Youth SDGs Action Project

The first such program launched by the CityNet Yokohama Project Office, the **2022 Youth SDGs Action Project** will seek to inspire students to approach the SDGs as an aspect of their daily lives and encourage them to take the lead on sustainable action as future leaders.

To date, student participation has been confirmed for university students from diverse disciplines in CityNet member cities in Nepal and in Yokohama, Japan, and students in Seoul will be joining soon. Students will brainstorm among themselves to identify issues in their communities before meeting online with their peers in other regions to share their perspectives, discuss ideas, and propose potential solutions. The first such exchange is scheduled to take place in late June.



University students in Nepal took part in an orientation on June 7 and held their first brainstorming session on June 19. Students raised issues that both related to their studies and that they felt passionately about, from environmental issues like insufficient waste disposal and gender



inequality among local leadership, to less-often explored topics such as the Covid crisis's effect on mental health, widespread lack of accessible facilities, and stigmatization of LGBTQIA+ identities.

Elementary students, so far confirmed for Yokohama and Ulaanbaatar, will also share their SDGs-related activities in their schools. Both age groups will compile the results of their research, exchange, and outcomes in a short video to demonstrate the issue and related Goal in a public forum around the end of the year.

This one-year project will be supported by the International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama and Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR).

III. Plus Arts commences online courses on Japanese Case Studies of Creative Approaches Towards Strengthening Societal Resilience

As a part of the cluster fund activity supported by CityNet Secretariat, Plus Arts conducted its first of three online courses on **Japanese Case Studies of Creative Approached Towards Strengthening Societal Resilience** on June 22.

The first course introduced the philosophy behind Plus Arts' disaster education programs and showcased the development process of the programs and activities which are now **practiced all over Japan and in 21 countries globally**. The DRR education programs that Plus Arts provides are **practical and enjoyable** ways of learning about disaster prevention which is highly popular among school children and communities for its simplicity and user-friendly approaches.

In CityNet, the program has been introduced in several member cities including in the Philippines, Nepal and Thailand. The first session included detailed process of how the educational toolkits are produced through carefully crafted workshops and customized to meet the local context. The development process is also highly participatory and the tools can be produced easily in any location with the available local material.

The **second course** introducing the private sector's involvement in program development will be shared on **July 27, 2022**. The second course will showcase how private corporations such as Toyota, Tokyo Metro, MUJI and other large companies in Japan have adopted the program to raise awareness among their employees and clients. Registration link can be found on the first page of this e-News edition.

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>



CITYNET Yokohama Project Office
supports the SDGs.