

# CityVoices

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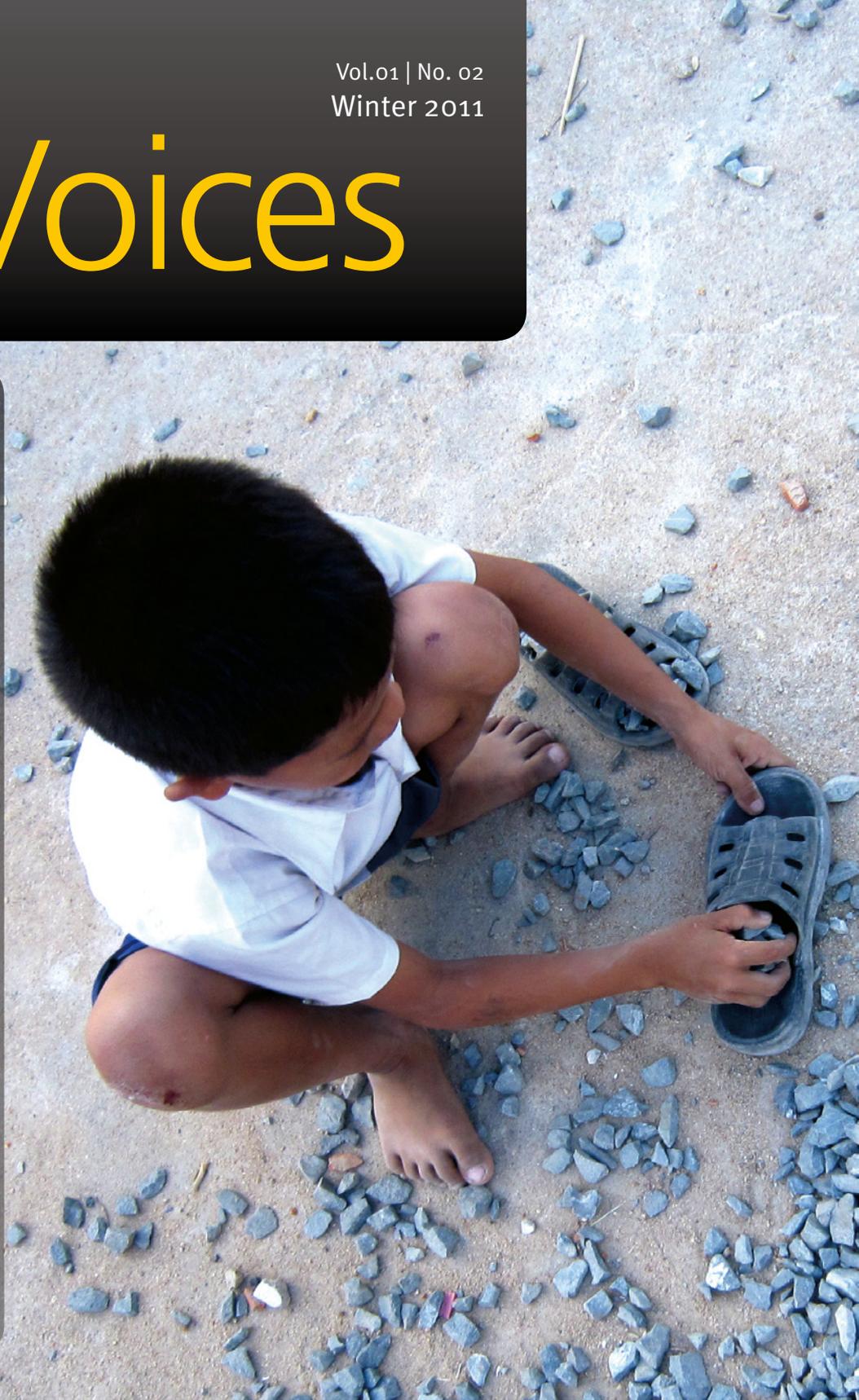
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## MDGs in Asia-Pacific Cities: Our Lost Path?



## Notes from the Secretary General

Mary Jane C. Ortega  
Reaching the MDGs

With urbanisation, more than half of the world's population now live in cities. If all cities can accomplish the MDGs by 2015, it would mean that fifty percent of the world's people will have their basic needs met. Can cities in the Asia-Pacific region achieve all the MDGs? What is it that we need to do?

Networking among cities is vitally important. We cannot look at cities in Asia and the Pacific alone. We need cities from the North to help the cities in the South. Cities in the South are also willing to help one another, but the logistics to make the C2C cooperation viable and sustainable is wanting. For greater impact, we can work through the association of local authorities, but how many associations are empowered enough to help their member cities?

In 2011, we have to reach out and share our lessons learnt with member cities and those that may not be CITYNET members but are willing to help and be helped. As we teach others, we strengthen our learning and CITYNET's 75 cities will be more able and motivated to continue sharing their successes with others.

This issue of CityVoices presents just a small sample of the many creative and innovative paths that CITYNET members are taking in order to tackle the massive and often overwhelming issues associated with the MDGs. Even with limited resources, capacity and funding, cities are finding ways to make a difference in people's lives. Many of the practices are easily transferable and mainly require forward thinking and a government that is willing to invest strategically, in areas that will have the greatest impact. It is often said that poverty is not only a matter of deprivation, but also of vulnerability; therefore in addition to reactive, preventive measures are necessary.

It may sound simple, but success depends on member commitment. We cannot survive as islands; connection with our global sister cities is vital. The state of the world cannot rest only in the hands of national governments. We need local governments and all the stakeholders of cities to work towards the MDGs. We need you.



Stand-Up Campaign in Kathmandu, Nepal 2009

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Stand-Up Campaign, in Balikpapan, Indonesia 2010

## Editorial Board

CITYNET is pleased to introduce the members of the CityVoices Editorial Board:



**Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl** is the former Secretary General and current Special Advisor of CITYNET. Chahl has served tirelessly with the Network since 1990. He has a successful law practice and lives with his family in Penang, Malaysia.



**Jack Sim** is the founder of the World Toilet Organization (WTO), has worked to break the global taboos of toilets and sanitation and legitimise them for mainstream culture. WTO has a network of over 186 organisations in 56 countries. In 2008 Time Magazine named Sim 'Hero of the Environment.' Sim works from his home base of Singapore.



**Mary Jane C. Ortega** is the current Secretary General of CITYNET and former Mayor of the City of San Fernando, La Union in the Philippines. Over the years, she has been actively supporting a number of causes and projects for environmental sustainability.



**Roman Rollnick** is a former international foreign correspondent now working for UN-HABITAT where he is editor of the magazine Urban World and speech writer. He is based in Nairobi, Kenya.



**Suvendrini Kakuchi** is a Sri Lankan journalist for Inter Press Service based in Tokyo and is a regular commentator on Asian issues for Japanese media. Her focus is on Japan-Asia political and economic relations, environment, gender, grass-root organisations and cross cultural communication. Kakuchi works towards developing partnerships between the media and civil society.

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Back Cover: Sushant Roul, UDRC and Shantilata Parida, Orissa Slum Dwellers Federation with slum community in Nayapalli Sabar Sahi, Bhubaneswar, Orissa; 2005-06.  
Photo: Shibani Mohanty, UDRC / Printed in Japan on recycled paper by Mojoprint.

# MDGs → Our Lost Path?

When it comes to progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the latest research tells us that the Asia-Pacific region is leading the reduction of overall poverty in a world that is now predominantly urban. In the next 30 years it is projected that two-thirds of the global population, including the Asia-Pacific region, will be living in towns and cities. Between 1990 and 2005, extreme poverty was reduced world-wide from 43 to 26 percent – due largely to a 50 percent decline in Asia and the Pacific. However, progress in urban poverty remains slow, and as a result, urban inequality is increasing.

“The global commitment to governance is still to trickle down. What is the use of large amounts of money allocated to poverty reduction if it does not reach the poor or have an impact on their poverty?” said Mr. Jockin Arputham, founder of the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India.

Mr. Arputham, recipient of the prestigious Magsaysay Award for selfless service to the people of Asia added: “Poor people are coming to cities to survive, to get two meals a day, to seek health care and education for their children. For that they work informally, never getting minimum wages, and when cities don’t recognise their need for housing, they build their own homes. The same State that talks about the MDGs then demolishes their homes,” he said citing evictions in Mumbai, India.

Research by UN-HABITAT, the UN city agency mandated to watch over the MDG slum and water targets, nevertheless shows that Asia is at the global forefront with regard to the MDG slum target: Governments in the region, and China in particular, have improved the lives of an estimated 172 million slum-dwellers in the 2000 - 2010 decade. Although the Asia-Pacific is leading the reduction of overall poverty in the world, it is still home to more than 504 million slum dwellers – the largest number on the planet.

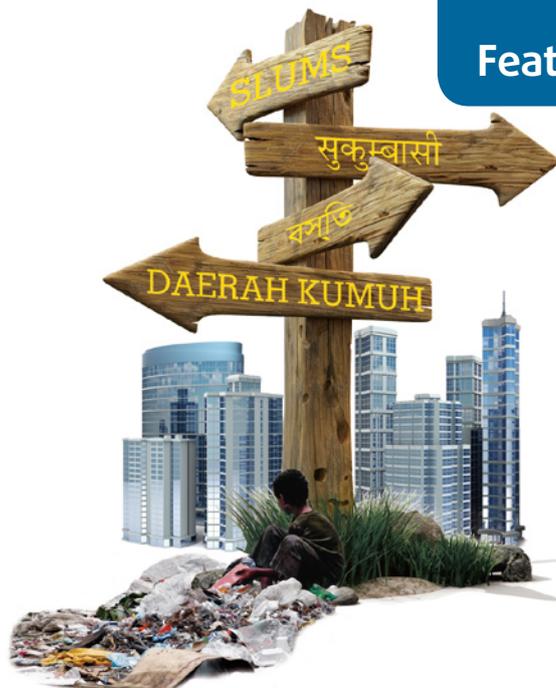


A slum in Palembang, Indonesia (2010)

The State of Asian Cities 2010/11 (ISBN 978-92-1-132274-3) says: “Over the coming decade, two-thirds of demographic expansion in the world’s cities will take place in Asia, which is already home to 50 percent of the global urban population.”

The report, launched in Shanghai on World Habitat Day in October 2010, is a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Cities and Local Governments – Asia-Pacific Regional Section (UCLG-ASPAC). CITYNET also contributed in managing the preparation of this publication. “If Asia-Pacific countries put themselves in a position to plan and manage balanced urban growth through necessary infrastructure investments, they can alleviate the negative aspects associated with urbanisation, such as traffic congestion, pollution and slums,” the report says.

Continued on page 15...



## MDGs & CITYNET Good Practices: a Snapshot

Since and even before the MDGs were officially established in 2000, CITYNET members have been actively working towards these goals. Through the years, a number of challenges and best practices have emerged. In 2009 CITYNET undertook to survey members on the ‘Implementation of MDGs by Asian Local Governments.’ It is clear there is a long way to go however the practices are worth sharing as they have led to measured success and allowed focus on translating national targets into local actions. The list is by no means exhaustive but an indication of the efforts of CITYNET members to tackle some of the issues head on.

### Colombo, Sri Lanka



1 Their Participatory Improvement of Underserved Settlements Project (PRIMUSS) aimed to contribute towards the reduction of urban poverty by upscaling living standards in Colombo through strengthening their self-help capacity while enabling the local government administration to facilitate and promote active participation of beneficiary communities.

### Iloilo, Philippines

2 Project JERRY (Joint Education Reading Recovery for the Youth) aims to “reverse the education crisis” through retention, comprehension and achievement thus arresting problems in reading and, decreasing school drop out rates. The project has proven to be sustainable with significant impact due to overwhelming support from internal and external stakeholders. Beginning in 2004 with only 48 teachers and 1800 pupils, it has expanded to all 7 districts and has scaled up from Grade I to Grade VI. Concepts of JERRY have been extended to secondary schools and replicated in neighbouring areas.



# MDGs & CITYNET Members - A Snapshot



## Balikpapan, Indonesia

The Family Welfare Programme, commonly known as PKK, is a national programme based on the implementation of official women's organisations at national, provincial and local levels. It started in the 60's in Central Java with the aim of alleviating rural poverty and a focus on women. It expanded to other provinces in the following two decades, involving women volunteers focusing on issues related to health, education and family planning.



## Lalitpur, Nepal

The city has implemented a Community Based-Integrated Management of Child Illness approach (CB-IMCI). This programme was developed by WHO and UNICEF to reduce child mortality and morbidity associated with major childhood diseases such as measles, malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition which account for about 70% of child mortality. Lalitpur clinics have used the approach on children under five since 2006. Training sessions were organised to increase staff effectiveness and early detection of childhood diseases have increased.

## LGs in Bangladesh (incl. CITYNET members Barisal, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet)

The Second Urban Primary Health Care Project The UPHCP-II (2005 - 2011) aims to improve and change the way in which health services are delivered to the urban poor. This unique project has been implemented in six city corporations and five municipalities across Bangladesh. The primary objective is to reduce preventable mortality and morbidity, among women and children by strengthening the Primary Health Care Center (PHCC) infrastructure and ensuring that the poor receive good quality healthcare. Notable success has been made in the delivery of EPI, ORS, sanitation, family planning services and maternal care for which Bangladesh is internationally recognised. [www.uphpc.org](http://www.uphpc.org)



## Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Cambodia has one of the most effective campaigns to cope with HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence has declined (2% in 1998 to 0.7% in 2010), condom use by commercial sex workers has increased to a reported 99% and 92% of all people in need were given antiretroviral treatment in 2009.\* Success has been achieved due to various approaches such as continual care, prevention, linked response and improvement of pediatric HIV treatment. In 2010, Cambodia received an award for its efforts with Goal 6. Phnom Penh has also made headway in education, sanitation and infrastructure which contributed to the health of its citizens.

\*UNMC Press Release, September 17, 2010 /Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV/AIDS



# MDGs: Success Stories from Asia and the Pacific

In 2010 the UN Millennium Campaign published a compilation of success stories and good practices from Asia and the Pacific as its contribution to the MDG review process for the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs held in New York in September 2010. The 15 short case studies feature innovative and successful initiatives from the region which have made tangible impact on the MDGs. Each case study attempts to answer - (i) what has worked?; (ii) why?; and (iii) how can it be scaled up or replicated effectively?

**“There is (also) a growing realisation that the real difficulties in achieving the MDGs are in translating policies and strategies into effective service delivery on the ground, and that significant improvements need to be made in the area of implementation rather than policy formulation.”**

Particular attention was given to bringing out innovative approaches to effectively address the issues of inequality and marginalisation, which is a significant challenge in our region. Further, promoting accountability and transparency by supporting citizens' participation in the development planning, budgeting, and monitoring is another issue which the Millennium Campaign strongly advocates as a key determinant of accelerated achievement of the MDGs by 2015. It is hoped that these case studies will serve as powerful evidence of the achievements made and will lead to a renewed conviction that such achievements can be expanded even further with the right amount of resources and political commitment to reach the remaining unreached.

**“Given the urgency to meet the MDGs in an inclusive manner for all segments of population, it is crucial that the citizens themselves take an active part in assessing, tracking and monitoring MDGs related to essential services at the local level.”**

## Selected Compilation Highlights:

- Bangladesh and the Philippines: participatory monitoring initiatives by citizens
- Bangladesh: microfinance for the ultra poor (1 million households)
- Nepal: constitutional changes based on demands and priorities of the population through carefully designed bottom-up approaches to participatory and inclusive consultation processes
- India: real-time tracking of the delivery of social protection entitlements via a mobile phone-based monitoring system
  - vitamin A supplementation programme reaching 94% of children in the target age group
  - pediatric AIDS community based care and support programme - child mortality rates were reduced from 2.08% to 0.97% in three years
- Fiji: free bus fare for education scheme (financial incentive mechanism)
- Cambodia: Community-Led Total Sanitation initiative and a successful model of low-cost and environmentally sustainable rice farming

The case studies are presented under three key themes - (i) Citizens' Tracking and Monitoring of the MDGs; (ii) Targeting the Poor and the Marginalised; and (iii) Institutional Support for the MDGs. These themes are among the key factors for ensuring accelerated achievement of the MDGs in an equitable manner. To access the full compilation: **MDGs Success Stories from Asia and the Pacific Accelerating Achievement of the MDGs:** ([www.endpoverty2015.org/files/MDG%20Success%20Stories%20AP\\_web\\_0.pdf](http://www.endpoverty2015.org/files/MDG%20Success%20Stories%20AP_web_0.pdf))

## Thailand Environment Institute, Thailand

TEI introduced the concept of "Greening the Supply Chain (GSC)" to the Thai industry as an effective tool and process that allows buyer companies to reach out to small- and medium-sized suppliers to improve environmental management. Case studies were conducted and have led to increased productivity and product quality. The project delivers technical assistance and training to supplier companies on basic housekeeping, management and efficient resource use. Suppliers have found that GSC not only generates environmental benefits and reduces occupational health risks, but also offers opportunities for cost reduction and enhances their competitive advantage. [www.tei.or.th](http://www.tei.or.th)



## Hue City, Vietnam

(Fund for the Encouragement of Self Reliance (FESR)) For over ten years, FESR has created opportunities for Hue residents as a non-profit, micro-loan institution providing seed capital to low income and impoverished people. FESR is based on the principles of the Grameen Bank micro-credit schemes. Funds raised have helped more than 12,000 households (2000-2008) with a 98% repayment rate. FESR also partners with international organisations, such as East Meets West, Room to Read, and the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, to facilitate interaction with the local government and collaborate on financing efforts to promote health and education. FESR has especially helped women gain self reliance and improve their living conditions in a sustainable manner.

## CITYNET Stands UP



CITYNET members have done more than stand-up to show their commitment to achieving the MDGs - here is a retrospective of some of the various 'Stand Up' campaigns spanning 2006-2010.



## Interview: UN Millennium Campaign



Minar Pimple,  
Deputy Director,  
Asia

**Q:** Many of the case studies are in a rural context, how can these practices effectively be implemented in urban centres of the Asia-Pacific?

We believe that these initiatives will shed light on how to effectively accelerate the MDG progress, especially for the poor and the marginalised groups in terms of better access to MDG service delivery. Many of the cases are applicable in both urban and rural contexts. Each case outlines success factors and lessons learnt, and those are not something simply applicable to that specific case. Along the key themes of citizens' participation in MDGs monitoring, targeting the poor and the marginalised and strong institutional support, we attempted to bring out key factors which others can take and apply in their own context. We believe that especially the theme of including the excluded would have a lot of relevance to urban cities in Asia and the Pacific.

**Q:** The success stories are very inspiring, yet many of the MDGs remain off-track, what do you think are some of the reasons for this?

Certainly much progress has been made in the last decade even in the poorest countries. It is our firm belief that MDGs are achievable, as long as policies and implementation mechanisms that are accountable to the poor are in place. In fact, there are key ingredients for rapid progress in the MDGs, and many countries with good track records have worked intensively on these areas: (a) leadership; (b) global MDGs adapted to national goals; (c) clear plans, policies and strategies in line with MDGs; (d) MDGs prioritised in domestic and external resource allocations in the budget; (e) strong focus on improving delivery mechanisms for the poor; (f) greater accountability and transparency at all levels, which in turn requires more citizen engagement; (g) more media and public debates; and (h) international donors lined up behind national priorities. A lack of these conditions would explain why some countries are lagging behind the others.

**Q:** On a practical level, what can local governments in urban centres (specifically in Asia-Pacific) do to be more realistic about accomplishing the MDGs?

One of the key issues we are highlighting is to significantly improve the local level service delivery, and for this purpose, city governments have a huge role to play by setting up participatory mechanisms for citizens to provide feedback on the current state of service delivery and demand for better services. This in turn requires ensuring citizens' right to access information, effective and innovative involvement of private sector, allocating sufficient resources, and so on. In terms of availability of required physical conditions such as communications infrastructure, and media networks, urban centres are often in a much more advantageous position than in remote areas. Thus, we would expect they should proactively lead the other local governments in rural areas by demonstrating their efforts and improvements.

**Q:** Can you talk about the importance of the 'Stand Up' campaign and the ways CITYNET members can get involved?

The 'Stand Up' campaign is a once-a-year opportunity to express collectively and globally the citizens' demands and expectations to keep our focus on ending poverty. It is about sending a wake-up call to remind governments of their promises and tell them that citizens are watching their performance. Until 2009, the 'Stand Up' mobilisation was tied to the Guinness World Records and last year for three days preceding the UN MDG +10 Review Summit in September, it was more targeted towards pressurizing the governments to develop a concrete plan of action, and it was a major success. It would be great if CITYNET members can incorporate the 'Stand Up' into their annual plans as part of their key policy movement, by taking advantage of the recognition which was already established for the 'Stand Up' campaign. For more information: [www.endpoverty2015.org](http://www.endpoverty2015.org)



Left: The 2007 flood in Jakarta covered 70% of the metropolitan area  
Right: Town watching programme for disaster prevention

# Climate Change Cluster Jakarta, Indonesia

## Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals:

Reducing the Vulnerability of the Poor through Adaptation by Sarwo Handayani, Head of Regional Development Planning Board, Jakarta Capital City Government (Co-lead of the Climate Change Cluster)

Jakarta, among the major coastal cities in Asia, is one of the most vulnerable cities to climate change and its impacts. Climate change and its variability continues to influence all sectors, from national and economic security to human health, food production, infrastructure, water and ecosystems. Jakarta, is highly prone to the impacts of climate change largely because of the size of the city, degree of exposure to frequent flooding and the difficulty in adaptation due to its topographic conditions.

**In February 2007, Jakarta was hit by one of its worst floods and which covered 70% of the metropolitan area.** The financial damage was estimated at least Rp. 8 trillion or about US \$879 million. The flood not only destroyed homes and lives, it also crippled social and economic infrastructure. The worst impact, from the human point of view, was the "social cost", including massive outbreaks of waterborne diseases, loss of lives, livelihoods and income. Approximately 79 people lost their lives and 223,203 refugees remained.

**40% of Jakarta lies below sea level** with the northern part of the city being the most vulnerable to flooding. It is also where the estuary of the 13 rivers passing through the metropolitan area meet. Climate change has contributed to difficulties associated with heavier rainfalls and higher tides, as well, uncontrolled ground water extraction has led to land subsidence of 5-10 cm per year. **As many as 312,170 inhabitants (3.48% of the total population) are at risk** within these areas which comprise mainly of slums that cover 416 RW's (small district) out of 2,196 RW's, mostly in the northern part of Jakarta. Taking the identified challenges, the

Jakarta Capital City Government, along with the Central Government has planned for a flood control system that will cover the upstream area outside Jakarta to the downstream area at Jakarta Bay. One of the major developments for flood control has been the construction of the East Flood Canal, completed in 2009. **Thanks to the canal, the flood risk has been reduced by 30%.**

Non-structural measures are also required, particularly those aimed at improving community participation, joint solutions and integrating action plans. For example, Community Based Development (CBD) awareness activities as well as empowering



East Flood Canal development in Jakarta

urban communities economically have become a necessary part of the city's urban planning.

Climate change presents significant threats to the achievement of the MDGs especially those related to eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability. In empowering urban communities economically, the city targets poverty reduction by 2% annually by reducing unemployment to 3% in 2010, providing education, health services and improving the income of poor families.

The Urban Community Development Programme aims to increase economic self-reliance in the community through local small businesses. The Government of Jakarta

provides revolving seed funds given through the Local Finance Foundation and is regularly audited to certify that the funds function



Flood Plain conservation and re-greening

effectively and meet the targets stated in the community programme philosophy: "from the people, for the people."

In order to improve the local environment and the financial means of the underprivileged, behavioural changes are necessary. The city has conducted a number of trainings including those on herbal and botanical gardening and landscaping, composting and recycling of waste (3Rs) that can viably produce economically valuable goods such as fertilizer, adobe building materials, crafts and other items. Such activities are also supported by the provision of appropriate technology tools.

As floods are never totally avoidable, it is becoming increasingly important to think in terms of managing flood risks in addition to prevention. All stakeholders need to contribute toward the solution, including structural and non-structural measures. Therefore Jakarta will continue improving the quality of development cooperation through strategic regional partnerships with local authorities in other countries.



## Climate Change Cluster Members

- Dhaka (Lead)
- Baguio
- Balikpapan
- Banda Aceh
- Bandung
- Bangkok
- Galle
- Guntur
- Hanoi
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Hue
- Iloilo
- Indore
- Kandy
- Kaohsiung
- Khulna
- Kuala Lumpur
- Lalitpur
- Makati
- Marikina
- Moratuwa
- Mumbai
- Muntinlupa
- Naga
- Negombo
- Penang
- Phnom Penh
- Pokhara
- Rajshahi
- Shanghai
- Siddharthanagar
- Sukabumi
- Suva
- Suwon
- Surabaya
- Jakarta (Co-lead)
- Taichung
- Tansen
- Tomohon
- Yangon
- Yokohama
- Yongin
- ACVN
- Ancona
- BCAS
- CAPS
- CUS
- DSK
- Lyon
- MarGGG
- MAUC
- MSSS
- Muan
- NMLT
- NWSDB
- OPPRTI
- PIEDAR
- SDS
- SERI
- Sevanatha
- SLILG
- SPARC
- TEI
- Tirtanadi Water Supply and Drainage
- University of Technology, Thonburi
- Veolia
- WTO

Contact: [tby@bangla.net](mailto:tby@bangla.net)

## Sanitation Marketing to Reach the MDGs?

By Andrew Koh, Programme Development Manager, World Toilet Organization (WTO). Mr. Koh was a key presenter at the CITYNET Sanitation Seminar in Palembang (November 2010)

**We are falling short of meeting the sanitation MDG by 317,000 people every day.** The world is in desperate need of a model beyond the donor approach which often fails to be executed effectively and is dependent upon aid. In recent years, we have witnessed the results reaped from successful implementation of sanitation marketing. Private enterprises have been recruited and empowered to provide affordable latrines to the needy. Sales from successful enterprises can reach over a thousand within a couple of months.

Sanitation marketing has made significant progress when compared to donor based approaches towards tackling the sanitation crises. However, the question still remains: can we meet the MDG target by 2015? This depends on the rapid implementation of sanitation marketing in all the countries facing the sanitation crises. Two key factors in enabling this massive operation are capability and capital.

Capability refers to the skills and knowledge required in establishing the framework and structure required in sanitation marketing. For capability to increase, programme managers from existing programmes need to improve capacity by meeting with various experts from around the region, or new professionals must be recruited and trained.

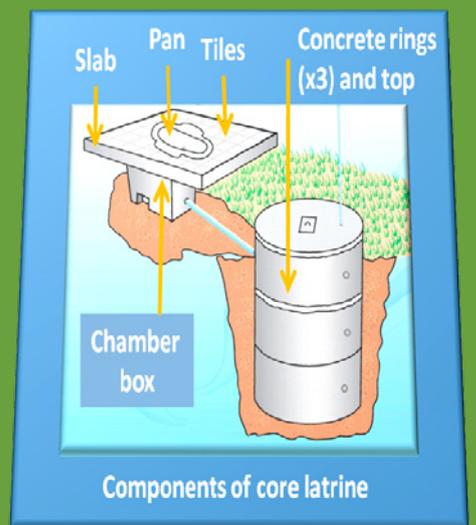
Capital refers to the funds required to implement sanitation marketing. While sanitation marketing engages the private sector, the programme itself is aid supported. Substantial programme costs lie beneath sanitation marketing. In addition to aid, the entire implementation process could possibly be geared towards a more business oriented approach, such as a social enterprise.

Franchises have a proven record of extending a particular product or brand across the world. A franchise model deals with both the aspects of capability and capital in the wider spread of sanitation marketing. The chief aim of a franchise model is to allow rapid spread of a proven model through efficient empowerment. For example, the essentials of sanitation marketing could possibly be captured in a franchise manual, which is disseminated to local franchisees to adopt accordingly. The franchise model could grant franchisees access to shared products and services, thus creating a global enabler. **With a new generation of sanitation marketing franchisees, we could make great strides toward the sanitation MDGs.** WTO is implementing a franchise called SaniShop, and we invite partners from all over the world to be part of this revolutionary change.

A continued failure to acknowledge that sanitation is central for human development undermines the success of several MDGs, including maternal health (MDG5), patients of HIV/AIDS or other diseases (MDG6), and the ability to create sustainable agricultural and recreational facilities for millions of slum dwellers in developing countries (MDG7).

SaniShop is a social franchise model in which WTO provides the quality brand for free and works with entrepreneurial oriented people from the start. We train them as franchisees and support them in developing and enhancing their professional skill sets. The franchisees thereby increase opportunities for gaining a self-sustainable and regular household income. WTO also collaborates with product designers and sanitation technology experts around the world to ensure modern and efficient products and proper installation, to more effectively achieve the MDGs.

Contact: [andrew@worldtoilet.org](mailto:andrew@worldtoilet.org)



The World Toilet Organization SaniShop concept. For more information see <http://worldtoilet.org/>



# Disaster Cluster Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Left: Banda Aceh following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 2004  
Right: New park near Krueng Aceh River

## Banda Aceh: Disaster Survivor to a Safe Tourist Destination City (Co-lead of the Disaster Cluster)

**B**anda Aceh is most often known to the international community for the major earthquake and tsunami disaster that devastated the small city on December 26, 2004. Located in the western part of Sumatera Island in Indonesia, Banda Aceh covers only 61.36 Km<sup>2</sup> and was heavily devastated by a 8.9 (Richter Scale) earthquake, followed by a very powerful tsunami. Over 23% of Banda

### Destruction in Banda Aceh (2004)

- 169 educational facilities
- 21,751 houses
- 25 health facility units
- 302 km of roads
- 9 market building units
- 63 government offices

### 2. Build up Basic Infrastructure and Public Facilities

It took five years to complete the whole rehabilitation and reconstruction process as two-thirds of the city was destroyed. Together with international communities and under coordination of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR), Banda



Top: before the earthquake and tsunami of 2004  
Bottom: after the earthquake and tsunami

Aceh's inhabitants, or over 60,000 people, died or went missing, while infrastructure and numerous buildings were damaged and destroyed. Even though the disaster has caused deep sadness and left bad memories, we believe that there is always a positive side to each disaster or incident.

Since the disaster occurred, we have been through many experiences and challenges in developing our city into a safe place. Based on this, we have identified several important steps that led us to the current situation, to achieve our vision, and to develop Banda Aceh as an Islamic tourist destination city.



Promotion of disaster preparedness in school education  
Source: Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center

### 1. Support from the International Community during the Emergency Phase

Banda Aceh community will never forget the tremendous help and support from the international community during the emergency phase. More than 500 institutions and organisations from around the world

**“Even though the disaster has caused deep sadness and left bad memories we believe that there is always a positive side to each disaster or incident.”**

have given their spirit and their resources which has enabled the people of Banda Aceh to rise from adversity; to survive and continue living.

Aceh started re-development planning. Although today we can see good development, at that time it was a big challenge for the city to keep all the donor assistance under good coordination. We frequently needed to revise and adjust planning documents to adapt to rapidly changing situations and behaviour of society. At that time, the public had little regard for urban planning.

They were more concerned with getting basic housing and other facilities as soon as possible. We are continually trying to improve and ensure that development goes according to the city's spatial planning to create a safe environment. In parallel to the development of other basic infrastructures, some disaster mitigation

facilities have inevitably become the priority of development. Escape roads, access and escape buildings, standard code for building construction, and facilities for vulnerable groups were built and have become

important aspects within our development planning. As Banda Aceh is a disaster-prone region and having learned from the past, we have prepared the city to anticipate and reduce the risks of disaster. Not only in preparation for earthquakes and tsunami, but also for floods, fires, cyclones, sedimentation of rivers and erosion of riverside and coastal areas.



Banda Aceh's new city hall

### 3. Increase Public Awareness

Soon after the completion of basic urban infrastructure development (i.e. roads, health and education facilities, markets, public buildings, etc.), people needed to be aware of how to use and maintain all those facilities. Supported by many stakeholders, Banda Aceh has conducted trainings and provided social infrastructure to the communities, especially in susceptible areas, to improve the disaster risk awareness. Activities like 'Bike-for-Disaster', tsunami drills, publications, community based sanitation programmes, tree cultivation for

After receiving full support for five years from international communities, Banda Aceh started to have another serious problem: one by one, the institutions and organisations started leaving the city.

the city forest are examples of our efforts to improve the awareness and the life quality for the people of Banda Aceh.

### 4. Sustainable and Integrated Programmes (Attractive for Investment)

When all basic needs had been met and developed, we started to think about our economic activities. People who recovered from their sadness were now ready to continue their lives. After receiving full support for five years from international communities, Banda Aceh started to have another serious problem: one by one, the institutions and organisations started leaving the city. People who were usually supported, guided and dependent on those NGOs suddenly were losing their lifelines. They are started looking at the government with the same expectations for services they received from NGOs.

During the transition period, just as with the community, the government was also confused. With a very limited budget, the government had to fulfill all the needs of the people with particular expectations. Therefore the government had to find other alternative financial solutions for the development of the city. By having better basic infrastructure and public facilities, we are now trying to attract more investment into our city. Knowing that

the private sector is one of the most valuable resources especially in terms of a financial solution for city development, the Banda Aceh municipality is trying to create an appropriate environment so that economic activities can develop naturally. It is a learning process for us to now improve the knowledge and comprehension of how to build cooperation and also manage public-private partnership projects so that both parties will get the benefits of the project.



The Vice Mayor during a disaster preparedness media campaign

### 5. Building and Maintaining City Networks

As part of the world community, Banda Aceh is very aware of the importance of establishing good relations and building networks at the national and international level. It is evident that this good relationship managed to bring Banda Aceh up to the current conditions. By becoming a member of CITYNET and APEKSI (Association of Indonesian Municipalities), Banda Aceh can share and at the same time receive information, knowledge, challenges,

opportunities of other cities through its participation in a variety of national and international events. These experiences are very useful for further development of the city. Banda Aceh has obtained the support for its development from international communities and institutions such as its sister city relationship with Apeldoorn (Netherlands) and Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other organisations as well as through the facilitation of the national government.

### 6. Visit Banda Aceh 2011

Now, six years after a major disaster, the face of Banda Aceh has changed a great deal. Traces of the disaster are almost not visible anymore. It is difficult to believe that the city was ever hit by such a terrible disaster. Grief, sadness and suffering caused by the disaster have strengthened Banda Aceh to stand up on its own feet and organise itself. Banda Aceh continues to develop and keep moving. Banda Aceh is no longer a city for all its citizens alone, but also a city of the world community. 2011 has been proclaimed as 'Visit Banda Aceh Year'. The city is more than ready to welcome visitors. It's time to visit Banda Aceh, a spiritual gateway blessed with natural beauty.



## Disaster Cluster Members

- Makati (Lead)
- Banda Aceh (Co-Lead)
- Colombo
- AIM
- Danang
- BCAS
- Dehiwala
- HFHJ
- Galle
- Lyon
- Hue
- PCL
- Islamabad
- PIEDAR
- Kathmandu
- Sevanatha
- Marikina
- YOKE
- Moratuwa
- Palembang
- Seoul
- Surabaya
- Taipei
- Tomohon
- Yokohama

Contact: makati\_international@makati.gov.ph



Top: Lho'nga Beach near Banda Aceh  
Bottom: Children playing near the Great Mosque

## World Disaster Reduction Campaign Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

Congratulations to CITYNET Campaign members: **Bangkok, Barisal, Colombo, Dhaka, Galle, Guntur, Kandy, Kathmandu, Makati, Mumbai and Vishakhapatnam** (as of December 2010).

We encourage all CITYNET members cities to sign-up! The campaign is a UN international strategy for disaster reduction and strengthening the role and commitment of local governments through planning and coordination with partners on all levels. UNISDR has extended the campaign to coincide with the 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action date. Please send plans to [isdr-campaign@un.org](mailto:isdr-campaign@un.org) with a copy to [info@citynet-ap.org](mailto:info@citynet-ap.org). [www.unisdr.org/english/campaigns/campaign2010-2011/](http://www.unisdr.org/english/campaigns/campaign2010-2011/)



# Infrastructure Cluster SPARC, India

Community design workshop with architects in one of the Yerwada slum settlements to be upgraded

## Inclusive Urban Planning in India: Participatory Upgrading Mechanisms for the Urban Poor

By Keya Kunte (excerpts from a case study paper presented at CITYNET's KLRTC Training Course XX "Sustainable Urban Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region" in Kuala Lumpur, July 26-29, 2010)

CITYNET member Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) an Indian NGO, in partnership with two grassroots organisations, the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) and Mahila Milan (Women's Collectives), facilitated a project in Yerwada (near Pune), India which focused on creating better housing for the local slum population. The three organisations, collectively referred to as the Alliance, began working together in 1985-86, to produce solutions that meet the shelter, sanitation and development needs of the urban poor in India through a bottom-up community designed and managed approach. The Yerwada project combined the resources of SPARC, slum communities, and the Pune Municipal Corporation; capitalising on each of their strengths and skills to ensure success.

Almost 30% (286 million) of Indians live in cities, a number expected to rise to 41% by 2030 with over a quarter (80 million) of urban residents below the poverty line (India Urban Poverty Report 2009 Factsheet, UNDP), a figure that is increasing. Until recently, the subject of urban development was ignored by Indian policymakers, who believed that resources should be directed towards rural areas to discourage migration. Formal private and public shelter delivery mechanisms have failed to supply land and housing at affordable rates or provide basic infrastructure. As a result, over 42 million people live in slums, making up between 20% and 55% of the population in most

“‘Sustainability’ comes from the development of grassroots level support mechanisms that leads to inclusion in overall city planning. The technical solutions providing the poor access to housing, infrastructure and other resources only come in at a later stage. The premise is that unless large numbers of the poor organise collectively to demand these basic assets from their cities and government, no change would occur.”

Sheela Patel, Director-Founder, SPARC

Indian cities. In the past, Slum Clearance Boards were set up by state governments, and demolitions were rampant. Many governments have since realised that providing tenure security is probably the single most enabling factor towards upgrading. Forced evictions however continue in most Indian cities and prevent slum dwellers from making long-term investments towards improving housing.

### The Project

While in many of Pune's slums, the government has already invested in infrastructural and layout improvements, it has had trouble implementing slum upgrading schemes due to a lack of community mobilisation and local resistance. As a result, much of the funding pool from the government subsidy scheme is currently lying dormant due to unsustainable and incoherent plans for slum upgrading. Along with the support of the municipal



Existing settlements to be upgraded, Netaji Nagar

commissioner and that of the Alliance, the slum dwellers chose to use the government funds (JNNURM) in a precedent-setting approach that builds on existing structures instead of substituting them, without damaging the social networks and livelihoods on which the poor depend to survive. Seven pilot slum settlements in Pune and 1200 households have been identified as part of the upgrading plan.

### The Plan

The first step is to form settlement-level, women-led savings and credit groups that manage daily collections, loans and accounts. Money is pooled into a central savings account from which small loans can be made for income generation, emergencies, housing improvements and other needs. The system is designed to support poor families to come out of debt and plan for the future.

Communities are mobilised to carry out surveys and mapping of their own settlements. Data is then put into the SPARC general database. Mapping is carried out with a professional surveyor to demarcate plot boundaries, and house layouts. In Pune, a biometric survey was also conducted for those households eligible for upgrading. The survey collected household details including proofs of residency, to provide identity cards to beneficiaries; a first step in recognising the existence of these slum dwellers.

## Keys to Success: Community and Data

While savings provide collective financial strength; data collection gives the poor ownership over information that is critical for understanding conditions, legitimizing claims to land and benefits, identifying real solutions, and negotiating with authorities. These surveys create detailed and accurate information about slums, which are usually ignored or poorly documented.

The precedent-setting approach in Pune was that architects and engineers were brought into contact with the community to initiate discussions about house designs and settlement layouts. Over a year-long series of discussions and workshops, community members handled scale models of their slums, drew on blueprints and maps, built full-size model houses of timber frame and cloth, and through these activities developed their ability to articulate their needs in terms of design and planning to produce an exchange process where agreements were made. They developed the understanding and language necessary to communicate with the architects, engineers and government officials, further empowering the community and individual households through a process that supports participation till occupation of the completed house. The resulting design is oriented towards preserving the existing settlement footprint to the extent possible to preserve social networks. Evaluation requires consideration of issues such as: social acceptability, education, risk



Mahila Milan, submitting the tender

management, existence of environmental, sanitary and quality standards; continuity and accessibility of the service. The main challenges were delays, lack of references and standardisation.

After a year, construction is underway in two of the identified settlements. Keeping in line with the community-led process, a number of the Mahila Milan women took on the task of 'community contractors'. This involves managing the acquisition of materials and daily on-site construction supervision. This experience brings knowledge that will be used to strengthen and train community members to do the same in future projects.

While undertaking any initiative or project, the Alliance engages with all levels of government on the structural and procedural impediments that may block community participation. Thus, 'making' or rather 'doing' is a practical, demonstration project that lays a foundation for advocacy. Learning

from the experience of Mahila Milan and Federations in the 90s, it became policy in Maharashtra and many Indian states to allocate housing in the name of the woman or jointly with her husband. The Indian Alliance along with the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) also played a significant role in developing the open defecation free policy, which is now a national policy. Policy implications of the community contracting programme initiated by the Alliance are also evident: it is now mandatory that 30% of work in Alliance projects is given to community contractors of which 80% are women.

Yet, the work is far from over. A major challenge is the frequent transfer of government officials. The Alliance deals with this by basing its work in a grassroots process that can sustain itself despite external changes. This calls for an institutionalisation of participation at the government level. In almost all instances, dwellings are built with resources blended together by the poor themselves. However, almost all financing strategies seek to cover the cost of a fully constructed house, seek loans from institutions wary of lending to the poor, and are not combined with policies to provide secure land tenure, which would encourage further investment. The government recently drafted a new subsidy scheme which calls for a city-wide slum upgrading plan and increased beneficiary contribution. Now, it is more imperative that the Alliance take the Pune project further and demonstrate the value of an in-situ, incremental housing strategy that would build on community investments and skills instead of substituting



## Infrastructure Cluster Members

- Seoul (Lead)
- Baguio
- Balikpapan
- Biratnagar
- Butwal
- Esfahan
- Hai Phong
- Incheon
- Jakarta
- Kaohsiung
- Kuala Lumpur
- Negombo
- San Fernando
- San Jose
- Suwon
- Sylhet
- Tansen
- Tomohon
- AIIISG (Co-Lead)
- ACVN
- AMDA
- Ancona
- Bombay First
- Chittagong
- Freedom To Build
- HELP-O
- HUDCO/HSMI
- MAUC
- OPP-RTI
- RAJUK
- URDI

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them. With a new government policy for upgrading in its final stages, the Alliance is getting ready to demonstrate once again the power of community participation as part of a sustainable urban planning strategy.

Credits: Sheela Patel, Director, SPARC; Jockin Arputham, Founder-President of the National Slum Dwellers' Federation, SPARC staff, Pune Mahila Milan and the Slum Dweller's Federation. [sparc1@vsnl.com](mailto:sparc1@vsnl.com), [keyakunte@gmail.com](mailto:keyakunte@gmail.com) [www.youtube.com/user/sparcnsdfmm](http://www.youtube.com/user/sparcnsdfmm) [www.sparcindia.org/](http://www.sparcindia.org/) This paper was possible thanks to the experiences as shared by Pune Mahila Milan, extensive documentation by SPARC staff and those in informal settlements who kindly let us into their lives. CITYNET continues to work with SPARC, an associate member of CITYNET and is developing joint activities in the areas of urban safety, slum upgrading and promotion.

## CITYNET Members: Ready to Share

Members have a wealth of resources to share. During past KLRTC (Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre) workshops, members indicated areas of expertise which they are able to contribute to other cities.

### \* **Changwon:**

Non-motorised Transport – Changwon is a major advocate of cycling as the main form of private transport within the city.

### \* **Jakarta:**

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Inspired by examples from South America, Jakarta has put into operation one of Asia's first BRT systems.

### \* **Seoul:**

Public Transport – Seoul's highly advanced public transport system is the focus of C2C cooperation with Mumbai, Jakarta and Palembang.

Sustainable Urban Planning – the restoration of the Cheonggyecheon River is a globally lauded environmental success story.

### \* **Surabaya:**

Solid Waste Management – Surabaya is famed for its community based, economic approach to handling household waste.

### \* **Taipei:**

Solid Waste Management – The 'singing' trucks are one of the city's creative methods of implementing their Zero Waste Management strategy.

### \* **Yokohama:**

Waste Management – Yokohama was able to reduce 30% of its waste before the targeted year. The 3Rs (Recycle, Reduce, Reuse) concept is a mainstay of the city's success.

Contact: [info@citynet-ap.org](mailto:info@citynet-ap.org)

\* Bharatpur was part of a CITYNET/UN-HABITAT C2C project with Lalitpur, MUAN (Nepal) and Kandy, MaRGG (Sri Lanka) which led to a MDGs profile and action plan for the MDGs. In October 2010 Bharatpur participated in 'Linking Asian Cities and the UN,' in Shanghai and supported by UN-HABITAT and CITYNET.

# MDGs Cluster Bharatpur, Nepal

## Achieving the MDGs Through Community Support

Certainly, the country of Nepal has made significant headway in achieving the MDGs, however, according to various reports, Nepal is lagging behind in areas such as education, employment and women's empowerment. Currently about 31% of the population lives below the poverty line and challenges in universal primary education, environmental sustainability, women's empowerment and employment remain immense. There are a few bright spots especially with a commitment from the government to policy and strategic changes including a plan to reduce maternal mortality by three-fourths by the year 2015. Bharatpur, the largest city in Nepal's Chitwan district, has made a number of important strides towards reaching national goals especially in sanitation and poverty.

### Bharatpur

Bharatpur is centrally located at the bank of the Narayani River and is famous as the entry point to the Royal National Park, Nepal's first national park and a world heritage site. As an emerging hub city with the highest population growth rate in the country (ca. 7.1%) due in part to comparatively safe drinking water and proximity to Kathmandu, Bharatpur has envisioned development through strengthening its role as a centre of tourism, trade, agriculture, and health.



Bharatpur's women health volunteers

### Open Defecation Free City

Bharatpur is the only city among 58 cities in Nepal to declare itself an 'open defecation free city' by 2010. The campaign started five years ago with a large number of stakeholders. All newly constructed buildings must include a toilet in order to receive a permit from the city which has also given grants to build low cost toilets to meet the needs of the underserved population. Participation of the community within this project was important in realising the city's dream and an official ceremony was held on December 22 last year celebrating this remarkable achievement.

### Urban Poor Support Fund

In November 2010, Bharatpur established the "Urban Poor Support Fund (UPSF)" for improving the living conditions and



Open Defecation Free City Announcement Rally

environment of urban poor communities with an initial fund of five million Nepalese rupees (ca. US \$ 75,000.00). The central government is committed to providing another 5 million Nepalese rupees as well as continued support from NGOs and INGOs. The fund has three main objectives of providing: 1) pro-poor low-interest loans for those in need of

shelter; 2) an income generating project for sustainability and repayment of the loans and; 3) needed vocational and practical training.

### Future Plans and MDGs

In Bharatpur's five year plan most programmes focus on achieving the MDGs including sustainable urban development in social and physical infrastructure, health and sanitation utilising a bottom-up approach. Previously, Bharatpur took part in a CITYNET/UN-HABITAT C2C project where they created a MDGs profile and action plan which led to successful localisation of MDGs.

The municipality has recently developed participatory development planning, a Human Resources Development Centre and an Urban Information Centre to cater to the growing needs of development work. People's participation has been largely mobilised to create new enterprises for income generation, to introduce new technology and develop social and economic infrastructure. The city is implementing and monitoring Rural-Urban Partnership programmes, along with micro credit programmes for women. Similarly, Urban Development through Local Efforts (UDLE) has assisted the Municipality in urban planning and environment management, organisation and development. Letting the community be the main actor is one of the key factors behind Bharatpur's achievement. Nothing can be done without awareness, sharing in the field of sustainable development the sincere involvement of the community.

"Cities are constantly changing and we must learn from the past in planning for the future. All local party representatives play a most important role in shaping a future better than today." Bharat Acharya, Chief of Planning Section, Bharatpur

## Best Practice: Tackling Corruption in Vietnam: The "Demand-Side" View of Public Administration Reform

By Jairo Acuña-Alfaro / Policy Advisor,  
UNDP-Vietnam / Jairo.Acuna@undp.org

Tackling corruption and instilling a greater trust of citizens are important tasks for governments aspiring to an effective and transparent public administration system and a necessary stepping-stone to achieving the MDGs. Vietnam, which is entering a critical phase of development as it emerges as a middle income country, has recognised this need for public administration reform and is taking a "demand-side" approach by attempting to capture citizens' perspectives on services and their recommendations for reform.

Citizens and businesses are the 'users' of public administrative services. Directly collecting feedback allows for bottlenecks and weaknesses in the system to be identified and addressed. Engagement and feedback determine which administrative procedures are the friendliest/simplest and which are the most irritating, and highlights instances of corruption and excellent service. Specific personal experiences can be analysed to target issues and can also be generalised to design reform policies for the nation as a whole.

As part of the design process for its upcoming ten-year reform plan, VietNamNet (a national media website) and UNDP carried out an online survey to enlist the views of its citizens' experiences with government agencies in the areas where they live and work. The online survey was open to all citizens of Vietnam and posed questions about experiences in dealing with the public administration system and recommendations for future reform.

Analysis of the results from the nearly 1,500 respondents showed that in order to increase citizen's satisfaction with government's services, three major areas need improvement:

1) completing procedures within the stated deadline; 2) improving the competence and attitude of civil servants; and 3) providing clear information about necessary procedures. The survey highlighted the current procedures that were generally viewed as simple/friendly (e.g. birth and wedding certificates) and those generally viewed as irritating/inefficient (e.g. land use rights applications). It also revealed that the majority of respondents feel that current procedures require too much paperwork, civil servants are incompetent, and having connections in the civil service or paying bribes are important for efficient service. Individual written responses highlighted specific examples of efficient and inefficient service in local governments, which can be utilised for resolution.

"When doing administrative procedures at the community level, I see that civil servants here too often do not grasp provided regulations. As a result, they don't take initiative in addressing the procedures, causing delays. Sometimes they cause delays on purpose to 'demand for extra payment' from those who wish to have their paperwork done quickly."  
- An aquaculture expert in Quang Nam on his experience in dealing with land use rights

**The survey was the first of its kind to be performed by Vietnam and its partners.** The number of responses and detailed comments suggest that public administration is an issue that citizens take seriously. The results are expected to be incorporated into Vietnam's ten-year reform plan, which will help create a more transparent and effective civil service that is more capable of working towards the completion of the MDGs. The government hopes to continue demand-side engagement to measure changes in public satisfaction levels by using further online surveys, as well as face-to-face interactions and third party spot checks at locations where public administrative services are offered.

## CITYNET and Urban Safety - A Woman's Perspective

The concept of urban safety in Asia-Pacific and its parameters are becoming more complex as urbanisation, uneven wealth distribution and occurrences of natural disasters grow. Social and institutional crime seems to be increasing but it is certain that the relationship between poverty and violent crime is not a given and various socioeconomic factors must be considered. CITYNET has been working to promote urban safety and awareness especially in local and national agendas. In June 2010, a regional workshop was held in conjunction with SPARC, ACHR, UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT (Safer Cities Programme (SCP)) and the city of Marikina (Philippines). Attendees of the event pointed to urban safety as a demand-driven, highly localised concept. One common thread is a necessary partnership between all urban stakeholders, including local government, police, and the communities themselves as the LGs and NGOs are suited to particular approaches.

CITYNET supported the Third Conference on

Women's Safety organised by Jagori and Women in Cities International in Delhi in November 2010. The event featured the launch of the UN-HABITAT Urban Safety Toolkit for Asia Pacific and the challenges for cities in the region including CITYNET members such as Marikina and Kathmandu. Bimala Koirala from Kathmandu wrote about her perspective on gender equality. "The programme made me feel proud, women's safety is a serious issue not just in poor or third world countries but even in developed and well off nations. Women need to feel safe, respected and free from street and sexual harassment and traditional social inequality. Despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the economic.

Women have strengths that amaze. They carry children and burdens yet they hold faith, happiness, love and joy. They smile when they want to scream and sing when they want to cry. They can wipe a tear, cover a cut and pat



## MDG Cluster Members

- San Fernando (Lead)
- Bharatpur
- Birganj
- Busan
- Butwal
- Calbayog
- Changwon
- Colombo
- Da Nang
- Dhaka
- Gorontalo
- Iloilo
- Kathmandu
- Naga
- Nanchang
- Nanjing
- Pangkal Pinang
- Pokhara
- San Jose
- Semarang
- Sidoarjo
- Sri Jayawardanapura Kotte
- Sukabumi
- Surabaya
- Tarakan
- Visakhapatnam
- Wuhan
- ACHR
- AILSG
- AIM
- AMDA
- ASAG
- Bombay First
- Chittagong Development Authority
- CUS
- MaRGG
- MSSS
- MuAN
- PASCAL
- SDS
- SLILG
- TEI
- URDI
- YUVA

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Discussions at the 3rd Conference on Women's Safety, New Delhi, November 2010

your back at the same time. We talk about equality, equal wages, political correctness and acceptability in all walks of life. But it is worth considering whether these factors really apply.

Gone are the days when she toiled at the kitchen stove all day long; she is aware of her needs and willing to fight for them. She expects to be given the respect she deserves, both at home and at work. Women today are learning to avoid stressful situations and it is a hard struggle but nothing can be called impossible.\*\*

CITYNET will host a conference on Human Security scheduled for March 23-26, 2011 in Mumbai.

\* From CITYNET Blog:

<http://citynetmembers.wordpress.com>

# Ligao City, Philippines

## Empowering Women & Improving Lives



The 1.23 acres peanut farm of Judith Falcon of Barangay Francia, now tending to her own livelihood

### LGP-SEED Programme - Helping Achieve the Vision of Ligao City

With a population growth rate of 1.67%, Ligao faces similar challenges to other CITYNET members in urban development, and has achieved success particularly in the MDGs with its Ligao Participatory Governance for Social, Economic and Enterprise Development (LPG-SEED) Programme. Ligao is one of CITYNET's newest members and is located 500 km south of Manila. Its economy is primarily agricultural with a population of roughly 100,000. The majority of the city's farm-based economy is coconut, corn, vegetables, root crops, and bananas. Despite its primarily agricultural economy, over 28,000 of its citizens reside in urban dwellings. The rest of Ligao's population lives in either rural or coastal regions, with a gross population density of 410 person/km<sup>2</sup>, over 100 persons more than the national average.

#### The LPG-SEED Programme

In June 2005, in her first term of office as the first woman executive of Ligao City, Mayor Linda Passi-Gonzalez envisioned a citizenry that is educated, healthy, productive, morally upright, peace-loving, and empowered as future partners of the government in progress and development. Mayor Gonzalez conceptualised the LPG-SEED Programme, a strategy for empowering and enhancing people's capacity using a holistic approach through an innovative community-based programme that provides for venues and opportunities for participation in government initiatives on poverty alleviation. LPG-SEED departs from the usual implementations of community programmes

and projects, which are often unsustainable. Instead, with its aim at capturing the whole perspective of comprehensive development, taking into consideration existing intervention programmes. LPG-SEED succeeds in maximising resources for the common goal of reducing poverty incidence by 50% by 2015, at least, in the respective communities of the thousands of LPG-SEED beneficiaries.

LPG-SEED was aimed at strengthening the social and economic capabilities of the constituents through consolidated and coordinated efforts, services and resources. With the provision of the LPG-SEED Centre, conduct of social services as well as economic enterprises became operational. To be housed are: a teen centre, a rehabilitation center, a nutrition centre, a child-minding and care centre, a product showcase, and a capability training centre. In 2006, LPG-SEED's initial implementation began with the three pilot barangays of Culliat, Baligang and Cabarian. After a year of significant success, the programme expanded to include 18 more barangays. Finally, with further success, all of the city's 55 barangays were covered in 2009. Attendance at regular orientation programmes on policies and responsibilities is a requirement for all applicants. To date, LPG-SEED has a total of 7,353 beneficiaries, 82% of whom are women. LPG-SEED and other innovative development programmes of Mayor Linda Passi-Gonzalez shall remain sustainable for as long as the needy and the marginalised are being served.



For more information please contact:

Ruth Roperes ,  
City Cooperatives  
Development Officer  
Tel: +6352-4852474 /  
+6352-8371400

Left: Cleofe Quiapos of Barangay Batang, happy with her ministore  
Right: A mini piggery business for Melissa Talavera of Barangay Nabonton, started from LPG-SEED Programme

### Your **Voices:** on the MDGs On Challenges

"In our city the MDGs cannot be realistically met by 2015. Our government has made a five year plan but global recession, climate change, food and fuel crisis are major problems. Our city started a project for the poor especially for women to improve their financial condition ...but it is on a very small scale."  
**Sylhet, Bangladesh**

"All local government authorities still are not aware of the MDGs. They should be more engaged and informed about the MDGs."  
**Rajshahi, Bangladesh**

### On Solutions

"My opinion is to exchange visits and follow the best practices of other cities."  
**Sylhet, Bangladesh**

"Develop career training networks in order to meet social demands; develop careers that comply with the economic structure, the changing ability of labourers and the labour users."  
**Hai Phong, Vietnam**

### Let Your **Voices** Be Heard!

CityVoices invites members and partners to share best practices, feedback or comments.

[info@citynet-ap.org](mailto:info@citynet-ap.org)

# CITYNET & Partner Resources



- 10 Ways of Achieving the MDGs in Cities in Indonesia
- Local Authorities in the South and 8 Ways to Change the World: MDG Case Studies from around the Asian Region
- Database of Best Practices on Implementation and Achievement of MDGs [www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org) (Media Room - Publications)
- Urban Safety Toolkit for Asia-Pacific (UN-HABITAT) [www.unhabitat.org/urbansafetytoolkit/toolkit.htm](http://www.unhabitat.org/urbansafetytoolkit/toolkit.htm)

## Upcoming Publications

### Cluster Update, Winter 2010

A compilation of the reports and activities by participating members in CITYNET activities for 2010. Available online at [www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org)

### Annual Report 2010

Highlights of CITYNET programmes and activities for 2010



### City-to-City (C2C) Cooperation Guidebook

Covers in detail the C2C process including various benefits and challenges with this type of project. This publication will be an important resource for cities interested in strengthening partnerships as well as sharing and gaining practical knowledge, in the areas of urban development and management.

## Feature cont'd

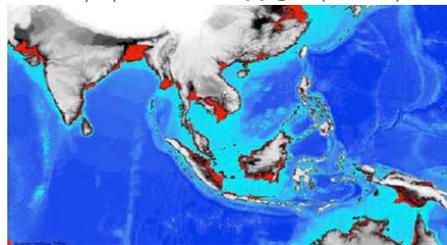
Continued from page 3...

"It is equally important that for urban policies to succeed, they are mainstreamed in national development plans. Urban and regional infrastructure should be given a higher priority in national development strategies."

### Global Facts and Figures

UN-HABITAT's latest flagship report, the State of the World's Cities 2010/11 says sub-Saharan Africa today has a slum population of 199.5M (million)

representing 61.7% of its urban population. This is followed by **South Asia** with 190.7M in slums with 35% of urban residents, **East Asia** with 189.6M (28.2%), Latin America and the Caribbean with 110.7M (23.5%), **Southeast Asia** with 88.9M (31%), **West Asia** with 35M (24.6%), North Africa with 11.8M (13.3%), and **Oceania** with six million who constitute 24.1% of the urban population.



Land Area Less Than 20m Above Sea Level in Asia (Vulnerable Areas Appear in Red): Brooks, N., R. Nicholls, & J. Hall. 'Sea-Level Rise: Coastal Impacts and Responses', Wissenschaftler Beirat der Bundesregierung 2006.

People living in slums are denied most of the other goals set by world leaders and often live in areas vulnerable to disaster.

### Into a New Urban Era

By the year 2050, six billion people – two-thirds of humanity – will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements and slums. In UN-HABITAT parlance, this is a process called the urbanisation of poverty.

There has been headway on most of the MDGs. Yet mothers continue to die unnecessarily in childbirth in Asia's urban slums, while HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are rife. Gender equality remains no more than a dream for women in many countries. Damage to the urban environment and surroundings is a growing threat to city food and water supplies, homes and livelihoods.

It can be argued that the MDGs will fail or be achieved by how they perform in towns and cities. Failure would spell tragedy, and indicates why the concept of a global partnership between rich and poor countries – the eighth goal – must be realised in our towns and cities.

\*Roman Rollnick is a member of the CityVoices Editorial Board.

# CITYNET Event & Activities

### March 23-26

Urban Human Security Study Visit, Mumbai

### April 11-13

KLRTC XXI on Urban Transport, Kuala Lumpur

### May 21

CITYNET Workshop on Transportation (Youth), Yokohama

### May 23 - June 06

UNCRD Training in Regional Development, Nagoya

### May 29 - June 11

Yokohama Waterworks Training, Yokohama  
Customer Service Quality Improvement

Post-AWAREE TV Conference III (Monitoring), Colombo, Danang, Dhaka, Makati, Yokohama

### June 22-24

Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, Bangkok

## Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC)

### Join Our Customised Training Center!

We are dedicated to operating training programmes for public officials worldwide. Designated as the 'Metropolis International Institute Asian Center' in 2008, SHRDC has operated over 30 programmes over the past three years. SHRDC operates independently as well as jointly with the support of international organisations such as CITYNET, World Bank, KOICA and others.



### Highlights:

- attendance of more than 400 foreign officials from 40 cities
- benefit from exchanging ideas and learning about policies in Seoul
- customised training based on your city's demands
- courses include e-government, transportation policy, climate change etc.

### For more information:

Please leave a message on the Q&A board and visit: <http://hrd.seoul.go.kr/eng> or e-mail us at: [krkim@seoul.go.kr](mailto:krkim@seoul.go.kr)



Seoul Human Resource Development Center

# Next CityVoices:

## Disaster Risk Reduction: Decisions worth making

### Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC)



- \* learn and share effective methods for sustainable urban planning (past topics: urban transport, solid waste management, climate and disaster resilience)
- \* understand challenges and best practices
- \* develop a strategic action plan for your city
- \* meet top area experts and policy makers
- \* initiate strategic city-to-city cooperation partnerships

contact: [info@citynet-ap.org](mailto:info@citynet-ap.org) / [www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org)



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**CITYNET**  
THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



**VEOLIA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES

CITYNET is an expanding network connecting local governments and urban stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region. CITYNET promotes capacity building and City-to-City (C2C) cooperation for people-friendly cities.

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