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Celebrating & Reflecting on 25 Years of CITYNET



Celebrating CITYNET's 25th Anniversary

by Mary Jane C. Ortega, Secretary General

I was so pleased to be a part of the recent celebrations for the 25 years of CITYNET in both Surabaya and Yokohama. These were fitting tributes to the organisers and the visionaries of this Network who saw urbanisation expanding in this fast-growing region over a quarter of a century ago, and decided to tackle some of our biggest challenges, together.

The mayor of Surabaya, Ms. Tri Rismaharini was a gracious host of the celebration in July 2012; the same month that CITYNET was established in 1987. Mayor Rismaharini proudly shared how CITYNET has been an active partner in the development and growth of Surabaya. The Mayor and I clearly had good synergy; during an interview with the Indonesian press we both spontaneously exclaimed "with CITYNET, together we can do more."

In Surabaya's spacious convention centre, awards were given to our charter members and Surabaya was given the CITYNET C2C Award for participation by UNESCAP's Adnan Aliani and Vijay Jagannathan, formerly of the World Bank. We also planted trees which we hope will thrive for the next 25 years in preparation for our golden anniversary.

Celebrations continued in Yokohama in October, and like a proud parent, the City applauded a network that they have nurtured over 20 years. At the celebrations, Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl, CITYNET's former Secretary General was honoured with an award for his 18 years of exceptional service and dedication to CITYNET. I was also honoured to receive an award as the incumbent Secretary General. I have served for only three years and will complete my fourth year in 2013, however, within that short period of time I have learned a great deal and shared countless wonderful experiences with members throughout the region. Without Yokohama, none of this would be possible. I want to say a special thank you to our Yokohama host and president of CITYNET, Mayor Fumiko Hayashi.

Throughout the past 25 years, CITYNET has done very well for an organisation that started with just a handful of members. It has grown to touch the lives of our 130 members, 83 of which are cities in the Asia-Pacific region. To UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT, and UNDP – thank you for envisioning such a network. We have shown that we can do more through friendship and city-

to-city cooperation; a programme that won the much-coveted UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour in 2002.

The CITYNET Secretariat will relocate from Yokohama to Seoul in March, 2013. We are glad that our new home comes with new horizons to conquer, and new hopes to foster. I feel gratitude to Yokohama for their love for CITYNET and what it stands for. I also have great expectations for the future as we find a new home in Seoul, knowing that we will be in equally good hands. Whether it is in Yokohama or in Seoul, the involvement of our officers and the members remain our priority. I say "onward to another 25 years of partnership for better cities in the Asia-Pacific!"



Tree planting as part of the celebration with Mayor Rismaharini (right), Deputy Secretary General of CITYNET, Aisa Tobing (middle) and Secretary General of CITYNET, Mary Jane Ortega (left).

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Cover Photo: Mr. Hanafi, Sukabumi. Editorial Board: Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl, Suvendrini Kakuchi, Mary Jane C. Ortega, Roman Rollnick/UN-HABITAT and Jack Sim/WTO. Edited by Sonya Poller.

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Printed in Japan on recycled paper by Mojoprint.

Facing the Critical Urban Challenges of the Future: ESCAP & CITYNET

by Donovan Storey and Adnan Aliani

“ We ensured that CITYNET was not just another network of local governments, but rather a network of local governments and their partners... These embedded partnerships make CITYNET such a vibrant and active organisation.

Urbanisation was an emerging issue in the Asia-Pacific when the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and its partners created CITYNET in 1987. It has now become one of the most critical development challenges of the 21st century. At that time, approximately one billion people—just over 30 percent of the region’s population—lived in cities. Today, that number is almost double. Within the next 15 years a majority of the region’s population or an additional 620 million people will live in urban areas.

Even in 1987 it was clear that governments alone could not meet the challenge of rapid urbanisation and that society-wide partnerships were needed. That is why when ESCAP was drafting the CITYNET charter it ensured that CITYNET was not just another network of local governments, but rather a network of local governments and their partners, in the form of national governments, civil society and academic institutions. These embedded “partnerships” make CITYNET a vibrant and active organisation. ESCAP, with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Japan operated CITYNET as a technical cooperation project until 1992, when Secretariat functions were transferred to the City of Yokohama over two years. From 1994 to 1999 ESCAP provided extensive

technical and backstopping support to make CITYNET an independent organisation and since 2000, ESCAP has worked with CITYNET as an equal partner.

Certainly, the challenges facing CITYNET members have intensified over time. It is perhaps sobering to recognise that the region is merely on the cusp of its inevitable urban transformation. With the majority of people still living in rural areas, the Asia-Pacific region is second only to Africa in terms of the proportion of population living in urban areas.

Cities now have the attention of policymakers. An evident trend which had only embryonic recognition in the early years of CITYNET, has been the shift of power and responsibility to urban and municipal administrations. In some cases this shift has resulted from the conscious efforts of national governments to devolve and decentralise the responsibility and authority of the development and management of cities. In others, this has taken the shape of ‘big bang’ decentralisation processes, as was the case in Indonesia. Throughout the region, we are witnessing a transfer of power and influence to increasingly affluent and dynamic urban centres and leadership.

With the growing role cities play in regional development, and the global economy, has also comes greater responsibility. Mayors are

Managing how urban populations move will be a critical challenge for urban planners in coming decades, the complexity of which is evident in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Innovations such as 'green bike schemes' are one step towards creating less car-centred cities.



Ensuring adequate livelihoods, especially for urban youth, remains a key issue in many cities.

more cognisant of their responsibility and the potential and real problems of inaction, whether in regard to unmet needs in sanitation, youth employment and transportation, or future threats of natural disasters, the impacts of climate change and the need to encourage both green urban economies and societies. The five-fold increase in CITYNET's membership over the previous 25 years reflects this recognition and desire for collective action.

Alongside other efforts to develop city-to-city and broader forms of partnership and exchange, CITYNET has clearly indicated the need for sharing of experiences and the

development of learning clusters on critical issues experienced by many cities in the region. The focus on clusters is important, as it provides a conduit for policy exchange and especially South-South transfer.

Providing effective platforms for dialogue for urban policymakers will only become more necessary and acute considering the growth of the region's urban areas, the complexities of the challenges they face, and their relative influence on the regional and global stage. This is evident in a number of areas, including CITYNET's own meetings, as well as regional dialogues which bring together ministers, mayors, government

officials, academia, the private sector and civil society groups such as the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held every four years.

There is an urgent need to build capacity, deepen networks, take collective actions and expand policy options for urban leaders as the Asia-Pacific region faces its undeniably challenging urban future. This was the original impetus for the establishment of CITYNET. It is an even more relevant mission today.

Donovan Storey serves as Chief of the Sustainable Urban Development Section in the Environment and Development Division for ESCAP. Adnan Aliani serves as Secretary of the Commission, ESCAP.

CITYNET Celebrates 25 Years

CITYNET celebrated its 25th Anniversary in Surabaya with an award ceremony that honoured Makati, Seoul, Surabaya and Yokohama for their service to CITYNET members.





Interview with CITYNET's Programme Director, Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi has served CITYNET for over 15 years, first as Programme Manager, and later as Programme Director. She has worked to guide and manage CITYNET through numerous city-to-city partnerships, projects, rough economic times and new members. Now, following CITYNET's 25th anniversary, Bernadia reflects on CITYNET, its future path and impact on members.

Q: Over the past 15 years, what are some of the CITYNET programmes that you are most proud of?

When I joined CITYNET, it mainly held seminars and study visits. Although participants highlighted their usefulness, it was difficult to measure the impacts. So, we developed a system of applied knowledge-sharing by combining awareness-raising events with trainings, pilot projects and policy and institutional changes. Now, CITYNET has a total of 130 members, six times more than when CITYNET started and we can do a lot more sharing. One of my proudest moments was when CITYNET won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour in 2002.

In the past, very few cities talked about climate change, disaster risk reduction, environmental education or good governance. We set up a cluster system to effectively address some of these fields and our extensive fundraising and diversification of funding sources resulted in long-term projects.

With partners, we created the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) in 2003 as a new model of capacity development. KLRTC continues to run well; it has trained more than 700 city officials worldwide and is the first regional training centre hosted by a city government.

CITYNET has made strides in its advocacy work but I think it can work to optimise the merits of our solid cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, CITYNET's founding body.

Q: How do you think that cities in the Asia-Pacific can prepare themselves for unprecedented growth?

People need to be the centre of growth and development however, many cities lack these human and ecological approaches. Asian cities need inspired leaders, thinkers and doers to make and carry out comprehensive long-term strategies and immediate actions. City governments must change their mindsets to become service providers and see citizens as both clients and partners. We must get actively involved in our communities and create dynamic neighbourhoods. I believe if we want to see change, it should first come from ourselves.

Q: How would you like to see CITYNET members being served in the future?

I think we can reinforce our solid Network with even stronger connectivity. It would be good to see governments invest further in Information Communications Technology infrastructure and green economy solutions. I believe that CITYNET can and should be a door for cities to find solutions, and continue to be a dynamic institution that transforms challenges into opportunities.

Q: What is your vision for the next era of CITYNET in Seoul?

As Asia is facing rapid urban population growth, CITYNET must expand as more and more cities, especially secondary cities, are looking for partners beyond their own national boundaries. Cities can be the agents of change and provide solutions through proactive multilateral cooperation. The size of our Secretariat and National Chapters must increase significantly to include more strategic locations for increased community building.

Until now, Yokohama has been CITYNET's major operational resource and we are very grateful for their unwavering support. Our future with Seoul is very exciting and I think both Seoul and Yokohama can bring fresh energy and create a momentum that will help the Network connect with and reach more cities both inside and outside CITYNET.

Q: Do you have message to CITYNET members?

It is the smiles of all the people I have met and the hope they have for better future that has kept me at CITYNET so long. I trust that together we can prove that prosperity, safety and happiness for everyone are possible. We can all make a difference!



Bernadia with elementary students in Phnom Penh as part of the Environmental Education Project (AWAREE).



Free From Waste Competition in Surabaya.



Citizens make deposits in a local waste bank.

Climate Change Cluster Surabaya, Indonesia

Leading Innovation in Waste Management

While cities in developed countries focus attention on issues of energy scarcity and green technology, cities in developing countries are struggling to reduce waste. Since the beginning of the 20th century, waste has become one of the top five problems faced by large cities in Indonesia; and Surabaya is no exception. As in many cities in the Asia-Pacific, several of the underlying reasons can be ascribed to poor waste management, insufficient technology, and a lack of citizen awareness.

In 2001, the waste problem became critical when a bad landfill operation caused severe air pollution, flooding and waste-related diseases affecting a large number of people. Surabaya City Government then began cooperating with Kitakyushu City Government (Japan) and conducted research to discover suitable methods to reduce waste. The Takakura basket, a Japanese invention, was introduced as a simple low-cost technology to support waste

management through composting. Once this household composting method was underway, city-scale compost centres were established to accommodate larger amounts of waste. Along with the composting system, the City began to promote reforestation by encouraging tree- and crop-planting in local neighbourhoods.

The strong will and commitment of the Mayor to education and community participation coupled with the support of the City Government and various stakeholders have been key factors in the success of Surabaya's environmental programmes.

In order to have an even greater impact, the Surabaya City Government involved several private stakeholders including Unilever and Jawa Pos, a Surabaya-based national media company, in the programme. Through their Community Social Responsibility programmes, these companies provide cleaning tools and gifts for workers, while the media significantly boosts spirits by regularly publicising environmental success stories. Together, community, government, media, and private stakeholders have been powerful enough to accelerate the success of the citywide cleanliness programme.

Surabaya's *Green and Clean Competition* was initiated in 2005 and together with the *Free From Waste Competition* they have become the most prestigious award programmes for kampongs (villages) with successful environmental practices. Along with the support of media and the private sector, hundreds of students, army personnel, City Government staff, NGOs and other citizens regularly dedicate time to

community cleaning and beautification services across the city.

In an effort to boost the local economy, the Surabaya City Government also introduced the concept of waste banks and recycling to citizens. Organic waste is processed as compost while non-organics are deposited in waste banks throughout the city or recycled and sold. At the waste banks, people can store and sell their garbage and check their savings. This way, people can see waste as economically valuable. One of the waste banks, Bina Mandiri, currently has a turnover of approximately 7,000 USD per month. This method has also been introduced to local schools; there is even a kindergarten which allows students to pay tuition using garbage.

All of this hard work has resulted in the emergence of many green and healthy kampongs, well-maintained city parks and forests, a decreasing number of waste-related diseases, less flooding, and the reduction of waste stored in landfills (approximately 80 tons per day). Surabaya has gained recognition for its environmental leadership with national and international awards such as the CITYNET C2C Award, the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City, and the Indonesia Green Region Award.

Public participation in Surabaya's environmental projects is growing and quite successful. Through its targeted education programmes the City recruits "environment cadres," individuals who live mainly in local kampongs. Their main duty is to disseminate knowledge about environment preservation to their neighbourhoods and become the driving force in promoting a clean environment. Some of the cadres will soon become



The Takakura Basket is a Japanese invention used as a low-cost household composting method.

facilitators whose main duty is to create and educate more cadres in their surroundings. Cadres and the facilitators become partners of the City, not only by disseminating knowledge but more importantly by making environmental programmes sustainable. To date, Surabaya has engaged over 28,000 environment cadres and 420 environment facilitators.

Surabaya has successfully integrated environmental preservation with aspects of the economy, health, and citizen welfare. The methods and systems of waste management applied in Surabaya are replicable in other cities as they require simple and low-cost technology.

Many cities across Southeast Asia have already followed this example.

CITYNET supports Surabaya by providing opportunities for valuable international training and seminars. These trainings increase environmental awareness and allow for a smoother implementation of environmental projects. In addition, CITYNET supports a strong international network with programmes and events promoting best practices. These help pave the way for Surabaya as a global environmental leader.

For more information on Surabaya's environmental projects, please contact: surabaya.city.government@gmail.com

Climate Change Cluster Members



- Dhaka (Lead)
- Baguio
- Balikpapan
- Banda Aceh
- Bandung
- Bangkok
- Barisal
- 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
- Seberang Perai
- Shanghai
- Siddharthanagar
- Sukabumi
- Surabaya
- Suva
- Suwon
- Jakarta (Co-lead)
- Taichung
- Tansen
- Thimpu
- Yangon
- Yokohama
- Yongin
- ACVN
- Ancona
- Asian Bridge
- BCAS
- CAPS
- CUS
- DSK
- IGES
- Lyon
- MAB
- MarGG
- MAUC
- MSSS
- MuAN
- NMLT
- NWSDB
- OPPRTI
- PIEDAR
- SDS
- SERI
- Sevanatha
- SLILG
- SPARC
- TEI
- Tirtanadi Water Supply and Drainage
- University of Technology, Thonburi
- Veolia
- WTO

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Solid Waste Management Solutions for Phnom Penh by Chiek Ang

Phnom Penh is the political, economic, and cultural hub of Cambodia and it has taken strides to tackle its solid waste problem which has grown from 714 tons per day in 2004 to over 1300 tons per day in 2010.¹ With a growing population of 1.5 million², managing the city's garbage requires a monumental effort.

In 2005, CITYNET led the *Awareness on Environmental Education Project (AWAREE)* in Phnom Penh and Hanoi supported by Yokohama and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In Phnom Penh, this project incorporated environmental education in local schools, reducing school-generated waste and streamlining waste management.

The follow-up project, *Partners United for Realising a Sustainable Urban Environment through City-to-City Cooperation on Solid Waste Reduction* fostered an exchange between Phnom Penh, Makati, and San Fernando, in the Philippines. Through this project, the Department of Environment in Phnom Penh (DoEPP) developed a comprehensive plan for decentralised composting and biogas systems.



Processing biogas in Prateah Lang, outside of Phnom Penh.

THE PHNOM PENH BIOGAS INITIATIVE

Prateah Lang, a small, low-income farming community located on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, is the home of the *Phnom Penh Biogas Initiative (PPBI)*. This CITYNET pilot project focused on the construction of biogas plants and the reduction of solid waste. In Prateah Lang, households are often without power, and use petrol lamps for light, a major fire hazard. Children must take time from schoolwork to help in the fields and search for firewood.

The PPBI began by mobilising farmers to convert livestock waste into biogas for fuel. Next, PPBI worked with farming communities to build awareness on the uses and benefits of biogas. Through cooperation with CITYNET and UNITAR, funding from the French Government, and technical support from CITYNET-member HELP-O, six households can now access a communal biogas plant. The project is expected to reduce methane gas emissions by approximately 87,600m³ per year and prevent the open dumping of manure. Phnom Penh also plans to share their experience with other cities in the region.

While fees for maintenance and construction are collected from users, the plant still lacks funding. Despite this, Mr. E.M. Chhem, Chief of Commune Council of Prateas Lang says the demand is high and more families want to use biogas plants.

The PPBI succeeded because of farmer engagement, sufficient daily livestock

and organic waste, and integration in the National Biodigester Programme (NBP)³ for proper maintenance. This project resulted in improved incomes and food production, extra time for children's schoolwork, a sustainable energy source and it sets a practical example of climate change mitigation for the region.

Mr. Chiek Ang is the Ministry of Environment Advisor and Director of Department of Environment in Phnom Penh (chiek_ang@yahoo.com).

1. Department of Environment, Phnom Penh statement: 2011 achievement
 2. Phnom Penh Census, 2010
 3. The NBP was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, targeting livestock farmers in rural areas. www.nbp.org.kh



Iloilo City's emergency response team ICER assist vulnerable residents following heavy rains.

Disaster Cluster Iloilo City

10 Years of Disaster Management

The memory of 2003 will linger in the minds of Iloilo City's officials and residents for a long time. That year, several typhoons wrought havoc and exposed Iloilo City's vulnerabilities. The succession of tropical cyclones laid bare the City's lack of coordination and operational stability when it came to dealing with disasters. Now, almost 10 years later, Iloilo City reflects back on their struggles and the mechanisms and strategies that have brought them to a better position to deal with disasters.

With a large estimated population of almost 450,000 and a population density of 5,649 persons per sq. km, it is easy to imagine the huge task Iloilo City faces in providing emergency medical services.

On July 25, 2003, former Mayor Jerry P. Treñas founded the Iloilo City Crisis/ Disaster Management Office (ICDDMO), later renamed the Iloilo City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (ICDRRMO)¹ and the primary operational team Iloilo City Emergency Responders (ICER). The ICDRRMO performs disaster and emergency preparedness programmes for the City of Iloilo and provides emergency medical services for metro residents. To achieve this mandate, the ICER team is composed of personnel trained to handle various medical, trauma and special cases. The team also works to alleviate the grief suffered by survivors,



ICDRRMO's ICER team during an earthquake and emergency evacuation drill.

letting them know that someone cares.

The original ICER team was composed of only six members with basic and improvised rescue and medical equipment. The lack of proper equipment did not hamper their motivation. Instead, it inspired the team to seek more expertise in specialised fields. The vision for the team remains "to provide the City of Iloilo with an efficient, timely, and state-of-the-art Emergency Medical Services system at par with the best in the world."²

On June 21, 2008, Typhoon "Frank" hit Iloilo City and the Island of Panay. Frank affected more than 255,000 people and 50,000 households. Twenty-eight people died, 170 were injured, and there was an estimated 30.18 million

USD in damages to infrastructure and the economy. In response, Iloilo City implemented a number of programmes through the ICDRRMO and other offices such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation into its Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and community-based risk assessments through hotspot, hazard and risk mapping. It also provided additional resources such as response gear, ambulances and early warning systems.

From its humble beginnings in 2003, the ICDRRMO has since formulated operational programmes encompassing the entire city. The ICER team also created a response plan that limits the travel time to a maximum of seven minutes to any given area in the city.

The ICDRRMO has since devised strategic plans to train barangay district or community response groups to augment the City's human resources. The office also partnered with the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office to create an early warning system utilising flags that are raised during inclement weather.

Budgetary constraints in the ICDRRMO's first seven years of operation left the majority of its plans unrealised. However, through perseverance and judicious utilisation of a meager budget, the ICDRRMO continued to fulfill its mission.

The passage of the Republic Act 101211 and the unwavering support of the present Mayor Jed Patrick E. Mabilog and Iloilo City Congressman Jerry P. Treñas provided new leadership in public service for the ICDRRMO.

Through public-private partnerships and donors, the ICDRRMO further increased its fleet of ambulances. Additional equipment and supplies were acquired through the Local Disaster Risk Reduction





The ICER transport relief goods to affected residents in a local barangay.

Management Fund, and an increase in manpower reduced the burden on otherwise overworked teams.

Today, the ICDRRMO remains motivated with new-found energy to meet disasters and mitigate their effects. Having endured dangerous and sometimes deadly paths, the ICDRRMO can proudly claim that it rose to meet numerous difficult challenges. Armed with confidence and an arsenal of new equipment, the office is now ready to fulfill its pledge to Iloilo City residents: "Always there because we care."

For more information, please contact: icerph@yahoo.com
 1. By virtue of Republic Act 10121, also known as the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Law.
 2. ICER mission statement.

Measuring Climate Disaster Resiliency in our Cities

Over four years have passed since the establishment of the Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative (CDRI) in 2009. This capacity-building programme was initiated by CITYNET, Kyoto University and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and later on joined by the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC) of the World Bank. CDRI grew out of a clear need for city government officials in the Asia-Pacific region to be more aware, prepared and able to communicate the complexity of the risks which our cities face and to integrate disaster risk reduction in their plans and activities. This programme includes the CDRI Tool which supports the development of plans to address disaster as comprehensively as possible. As climate-related disasters become more frequent and severe, CDRI has become increasingly relevant.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP), formulated using the CDRI Tool, consists of short, medium and long terms plans within five priority areas: physical, social, economic, institutional and natural. The 1st cohort of participating cities was Colombo (Sri Lanka), Chennai (India), Dhaka (Bangladesh) – now Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation, Hue (Vietnam), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Makati (Philippines),

Sukabumi (Indonesia) and Suwon (Korea). As pioneers of this programme, these cities have been designated "Champion Cities" that will guide other participants in the CDRI programme through their positive examples and lessons learnt.

Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay, Jr. of Makati recently highlighted the role of CDRI in his city's significant advancements in DRR, "As an offshoot of the CDRI initiative of CITYNET and

The CDRI Tool



its partners, Makati has formulated the Climate Action Plan and the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan where we have been able to apply innovations in our knowledge-sharing protocols."

Based on their Action Plans, each city chose three priority areas with specific and achievable actions over a defined time scale with a set of measurable targets. From amongst the priority actions, the appropriate Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA)'

Installation of an Early Warning Weather Station in Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati City. Readings from all weather stations in Makati can be found at www.makati.gov.ph/portal/index.jsp#

Disaster Cluster Members



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

Contact: makati_international@makati.gov.ph

and specific policy direction was linked accordingly.

In October 2012, the Champion Cities reported on the development of their Climate Action Plans, identified problem areas and deviations from target timelines, budgets and other performance indicators via video conference. A majority of the pilot cities were able to report some progress and several cities were able to mainstream DRR into their Plans. A few cities were not able to meet their targets due to budgetary constraints, lack of support from their local governments and staff changes. The impact of CDRI is currently being assessed in these cities; their experiences and challenges will be taken into consideration and passed along to the next group of cities.

With the inevitable and urgent need for resilient cities, CITYNET looks forward to the next iteration of the CDRI Programme in the first half of 2013.

For more information on the CDRI programme: www.citynet-ap.org/priority-clusters/disaster/cdri-capacity-building-ii

1. The HFA is a 10-year plan on DRR endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2005 In Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. It is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk : governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others – bringing them into a common system of coordination. Source: www.unisdr.org





George Town, Penang, after road improvement, 2012 (left) and Heritage House in George Town, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site (right).

Infrastructure Cluster Yokohama & Penang

CITYNET Trailblazers Yokohama & Penang: A Reflection on 30 Years of Cooperation



Campbell / Buckingham Shopping Mall plans in 1987 (left) and Campbell / Buckingham Shopping Mall in 2012 (right).

In 2012, CITYNET celebrated its 25th anniversary of connecting communities. However, prior to CITYNET's formation, city-to-city cooperation and international technical exchange were already underway in the Asia-Pacific. The cities of Yokohama (Japan) and Penang (Malaysia) have an ongoing 30-year relationship of exchanging technical expertise and friendship. Both cities are CITYNET members (Yokohama since 1989 and Penang since 1997) and in some ways their trailblazing projects and experiences have paved the way for CITYNET's success.

Penang and Yokohama are a natural pair with many common characteristics: a history of trade and migration, port activities, their status as the second largest urban centre in their respective countries, similar urban landscapes and geographic features and long histories of international exchange.¹ The relationship came to fruition in

1982 at the Regional Congress of Local held in Yokohama; however, it took a few years before cooperative projects got off the ground. In 1986, both cities agreed to a programme focusing on technical exchange in the field of engineering. They subsequently signed a Memorandum of Understanding and specific agreements including staff exchanges for a period of nine years (November 1986–March 1995).² Engineers from Yokohama and Penang developed a strong basis of understanding and familiarised themselves with the projects, municipal priorities, city life and cultural characteristics of their respective cities. The groups then began developing proposals for practical business solutions. Considering the needs and resources of both cities, they agreed to focus on urban design, road maintenance, waste treatment and recycling. Over the next three years, engineers and planners travelled

between Yokohama and Penang and tackled these projects together.

Mr. Toshihiko Oyamatsu, a member of the original technical exchange team from Yokohama, highlighted the significance of these types of partnerships. "Through international exchange there is a deepening of mutual understanding. This shows how important and necessary these kind of technical exchanges are".

In addition, a similar type of exchange was established with four Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts by Yokohama City on urban transport management and sewage disposal with their counterparts in Penang. Together they carried out a training programme made possible through the support of Yokohama City and JICA.

Cooperation between the two cities tackled pedestrianisation and comprehensive urban design planning for Penang's inner city area of George Town. The team made improvements to road maintenance and management, and implemented solid waste data collection activities and a recycling programme.³

THE CAMPBELL / BUCKINGHAM SHOPPING MALL PROJECT (PENANG)

Campbell and Buckingham Street is a unique shopping area in George Town of Penang, heavily influenced by its British origins. However, in 1986, it desperately needed renewal and revival. Together Yokohama and Penang developed a plan to preserve the traditional shops and character of the street while encouraging its

practical use. They proposed building an attractive shopping area geared towards pedestrians that would respect the history of Penang. The proposal took into account the resources and funds available to the City. Yokohama representatives drew inspiration from their experiences with pedestrian-friendly malls in Yokohama, such as the Isezaki-mall (Japan's first real shopping mall), the Bashamichi mall and the Motomachi shopping mall.⁴

Some of the new implemented urban design measures included a one-way street complete with new signs, benches and trees, better road alignment and parking meter installations. Thanks to this project, Penang residents and Penang City Council members gained a greater understanding and appreciation of urban design. The City also established a shop-owners association to promote the area and to encourage community participation and sustainable management of the shopping mall.

In 2008, the central part of George Town was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, thanks to the preservation and improvement of the historical area.

ROAD MAINTENANCE & WASTE TREATMENT

Yokohama transferred technology and skills in road administration, efficient road repair and maintenance, quality control and traffic sign safety. In fact, Yokohama engineers brought traffic signs and display boards from Japan to Penang in order to test their effectiveness and contribute to local product development in Malaysia.

In the area of waste treatment, Yokohama introduced a recyclable trash recovery programme. They successfully implemented a pilot project for collection and recycling containers were successfully distributed throughout Penang.

TRANSPORT & WASTE MANAGEMENT

JICA experts from Yokohama, also a part of the technical exchange, contributed positively to the development of Penang. They set up an Area Traffic Control (ATC) Centre to support greater safety at intersections, more space for pedestrians and the optimisation of road systems and networks. They also supported the completion of sewage disposal and treatment plants. The subsequent and substantial improvement of technical capabilities in both transportation and waste management in Penang opens the door for similar exchanges with other CITYNET members.

A SHARED FUTURE

Mr. Oyamatsu suggests that there are a number of areas in which Yokohama and Penang can continue their exchange such as in tourism (especially focusing on George Town) and city planning. Environmental issues remain a major concern and improvements in traffic, air pollution, global warming, citizen participation and increasing awareness need to be addressed continually.

International technical exchange in Yokohama carries on its tradition with the International Policy Office in Yokohama, CITYNET and JICA. Furthermore, Mr. Oyamatsu says that he continues to support Yokohama's

Infrastructure Cluster Members



- Seoul (Lead)
- Baguio
- Balikpapan
- Biratnagar
- Butwal
- Esfahan
- Hai Phong
- Incheon
- Jakarta
- Kaohsiung
- Kathmandu
- Kuala Lumpur
- Negombo
- San Fernando
- San Jose
- Seberang Perai
- Suwon
- Sylhet
- Tansen
- Tomohon
- Yongin
- AIILSG (Co-lead)
- ACVN
- AMDA
- Ancona
- Bombay First
- Chittagong
- Freedom To Build
- HELP-O
- HUDCO/HSMI
- IGES
- MAUC
- Office Tape
- OPPRTI
- RAJUK
- URDI

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activities through CITYNET and his NPO, Office TAPE, a member of CITYNET. "I think it is effective to utilise CITYNET and strengthen strategic cooperation with other cities," Mr. Oyamatsu concludes, "CITYNET has the experience and capacity to connect cities and facilitate more positive mutual technology exchanges."

For more information contact: Mr. Toshihiko Oyamatsu, Office TAPE (toshi.oyamatsu@nifty.com)

1, 2, 3, 4. Evaluating city-to-city cooperation: a case study of the Penang and Yokohama experience, Tjandradewi, Marcotullio and Kidokoro



The Area Traffic Control Centre in Penang was set up support greater safety at intersections, more space for pedestrians and the optimisation of road systems and networks.



MDGs Cluster

Through the Years: CITYNET Projects & Events Supporting the MDGs

Through the years CITYNET has been working to support the eight Millennium Development Goals and to promote the achievements of members in this area. The MDGs involve eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and providing equality, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability and global partnerships to all by 2015. We reflect on some of the moments along CITYNET's journey to contribute to these goals.



2004 (top left): Urban Poverty Alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals, Challenges for Asian Local Governments, October 27-30, 2004, Mumbai, India

2006 (above left): Stand Up Campaign, Kathmandu, Nepal • (above middle) Stand Up Campaign, Makati, Philippines • (above right) Stand Up Campaign, Sukabumi, Indonesia

2007 (left): Workshop on Localizing Millennium Development Goals in Asian Cities through Innovative Leadership and Community Empowerment, March 23, 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal • (bottom left) Stand Up Campaign, Lalitpur, Nepal • (bottom right) Stand Up Campaign, Pokhara, Nepal





THE STAND UP CAMPAIGN

The “Stand Up Campaign” evolved in response to the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by 189 world leaders as part of the Millennium Declaration made in September 2000. The United Nations Millennium Campaign encourages everyone to “Stand Up and Take Action Against Poverty and for the MDGs.” We are proud to say that CITYNET members have been active in organising and showing their support throughout the years.

MDGs

Cluster Members



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

Contact: valmar_valdez@yahoo.com



2008 (top): Stand Up Campaign, Bharatpur, Nepal

2009 (2nd from top): Stand Up Campaign, Banda Aceh, Indonesia • (above) Stand Up Campaign, Sukabumi, Indonesia

2010 (above right): Stand Up Campaign, Balikpapan, Indonesia



2011: (far left) Human Security Workshop, Mumbai, India • (above) On the streets of Mumbai, India • (left) A team from CITYNET, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights and Ahmedabad Study Action Group visited Seoul in June 2011 to promote sustainable solutions for low-income housing settlements.

Member Spotlight: Quezon City, Philippines

Quezon City: A Premier City with a Unique Perspective

“ As part of CITYNET, Quezon City can expand its network, gain expertise and share the City’s truly unique perspective with other CITYNET members and interest groups



Quezon City was born out of the late President Manuel Luis Quezon’s vision of a city where the common man can live with dignity. Since then, Quezon City has evolved into a premier city; it’s fast-becoming a business and industry centre that can boast the largest service economy in the Philippines. The rapid urban development, however, means an urgent need to balance economic progress, environmental management and social welfare. As one of the newest members of CITYNET, Quezon City is facing these challenges head on with determination, creativity and clear strategies.

A YOUNG & VIBRANT CITY

Quezon City has a land area of just over 161 sq. km covering one-fourth of the National Capital Region, making it the largest city in Metro Manila. It has the second densest concentration of IT parks and buildings in the Philippines and the third largest shopping centre in the world.¹

With a young and vibrant population, the three million people of Quezon City are of mixed regional origin. Its big consumer market and diverse manpower are dominated by youth, and more than 40 percent of the population is younger than 20 years old.

FACING CHALLENGES HEAD ON

Like other developing cities, Quezon City is facing numerous development and social challenges. In response, Quezon City’s social development plan focuses on preservation and enrichment of culture, maintenance of peace and order, and promotion of health, safety and social justice.

The increasing unemployment rate, great disparity in income distribution and the prevalence of unregistered small businesses are major problems for the City. However, the City Government aims to pursue: 1) a diverse economy and increased investments that provides widespread employment and income opportunities; 2) a strong economic environment for sustained growth; and 3) a vibrant economic climate conducive to local and foreign investments.



Quezon City has a young and vibrant population; 40 percent of the population is under 20 years old. This photo was taken with Mayor Herbert Bautista.

High waste generation and air and water pollution remain primary environmental concerns. In 2010, the Environment Policy Management (EPM) Council was formed to fast track and implement environmental policies adopted by the City. Through this initiative and other environmental programs, Quezon City seeks to create a clean, green and healthy city for both local residents and visitors

RISK REDUCTION

Quezon City is exceptionally vulnerable to flooding and earthquakes with land use patterns and transportation also growing concerns. Formed in 2010, the

Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) implements the City’s adaptation and disaster preparedness programme guided by the Hyogo Framework under the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). A multi-disciplinary team of engineers, architects, urban planners and urban poor, also formed the Task Force on Waterways to look into the City’s flood control strategy over the next three years. In addition, infrastructure building, land acquisition, urban renewal and development of new growth centres are currently in development.

With the threat of climate change magnifying all of these challenges, the City Government is striving to become a “Climate Change Resilient City.” Quezon City recognises the need to forge partnerships with local and international organisations to learn from best practices, specifically on carbon emissions and disaster risk reduction, as well as sustainable practices in construction, and to explore funding and networking opportunities. As part of CITYNET, Quezon City can expand its network, gain expertise and share the City’s truly unique perspective with other CITYNET members and interest groups.

For more information please contact:
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(drej_andres_po@yahoo.com)

1. Size in terms of leasable space
Article Sources: QC Ecological Profile, 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan and www.quezoncity.gov.ph



Eastwood Mall (top left), and Quezon City Memorial Circle (bottom).

CITYNET

Events & Activities

May, 2013 / Kuala Lumpur

KLRTC 26 on Public-Private Partnership

Yokohama Waterworks Bureau
Training on Customer Service Quality
Improvement

May / June 2013

UNCRD Training in Regional
Development

September, 2013 / Kuala Lumpur

KLRTC 27 on Integrated Urban Planning

4-6 November, 2013 / Seoul

The 2013 CITYNET Congress



A group of CITYNET members at a brainstorming meeting that took place during the CITYNET 25th Anniversary Celebrations in Yokohama.

Your Voices: Your vision for CITYNET's next 25 years

"CITYNET should extend its programmes to include issues such as green urbanisation, increasing urban resources, good governance and transparency. We expect CITYNET to work to improve sustainable urban planning, environmental conservation, primary health care services and sustainable economic growth. CITYNET can also support sustainable safety programmes for the vulnerable urban poor. CITYNET should build new alliances and extend its focus towards public and environmental health-related issues. It would also be great to see a new cluster named 'Urban Health'."

*Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman
Chief Health Officer, Barisal City Corporation
Barisal City, Bangladesh*

"Yokohama takes pride in CITYNET and its efforts toward creating sustainable cities and its 25 years of advancing the development of the Asia-Pacific region. In 2013, Yokohama will establish the CITYNET Yokohama Office and provide further support for CITYNET. Yokohama will continue to work together with CITYNET to strengthen and develop their activities in member cities for the next 25 years and beyond."

*Mr. Makoto Sekiyama,
Director, International Policy Office, Policy Bureau,
the City of Yokohama, Japan*

"Some important issues for next 25 years of CITYNET are "green growth" and "smart cities." CITYNET can encourage all cities (including non-members) through green growth and smart cities indices. Awards can be given to cities who improve in areas such as land use, transportation, energy, partnership, innovative use of technology and smart environmental practices. CITYNET can also be a stronger organisation if it expands its services to other regions outside of the Asia-Pacific region."

*Dr. M. Rudy Siahaan,
Public Works Agency Head,
Jakarta, Indonesia*

Let Your Voices Be Heard!

CityVoices invites members and partners to share best practices, feedback or comment:
info@citynet-ap.org or communication@citynet-ap.org

Next CityVoices

Fall 2013

CITYNET: New Directions for CITYNET

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, urban financing infrastructure)
- * **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

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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.

CITYNET

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

together we can do more.

