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Dr. Vijay Jagannathan

Left: Secretary General Jagannathan addresses Congress participants; Right: The Secretary General listening to discussion during the 7th General Council

In 2013, I was honored to take a leadership role in CITYNET at a time when the urban agenda has taken center stage in global discussions. I first worked with CITYNET in 2009 as a manager for the World Bank's program for cities in East Asia and the Pacific. I attended a conference on sustainable cities in Yokohama, where I had the pleasure of meeting representatives from across the network. Meeting this diverse group of people committed to sustainable urban development was a wonderful introduction to CITYNET.

From the beginning, I knew this was a special organization. It was clear that the network plays a significant role in promoting city-to-city knowledge exchange and peer learning. CITYNET is an essential ingredient for galvanizing local leadership into action on regional problems.

Since 2009, I have been particularly impressed with the ownership that members have taken of CITYNET activities. This has been exemplified by the great care and commitment shown by the hosts of CITYNET events I have attended in Yokohama, Dhaka, Surabaya and Seoul. I am also continually struck by the enthusiasm of the Secretariat. Together, members and the Secretariat staff have created a strong network of communication and action across the region.

As Secretary General of CITYNET, in 2014 I look forward to advancing discussions on the importance of local government with partners such as Microsoft, The Rockefeller Foundation, Clean Air Asia, the Korea Transport Institute, and more. While the window of opportunity remains open, it is critical that cities across the region have the tools and knowledge to realize their economic potential in ways which respect the environment and society's most vulnerable.

As a network of cities and partner institutions, we have a significant opportunity to "walk our talk," or actively carry out the values and priorities that are so often discussed. CITYNET has a broad range of skills and knowledge available to help city leaders truly practice sustainable development. The Secretariat stands ready to facilitate new partnerships and projects to translate this knowledge into action for citizens.

My relationship with CITYNET began in 2008, when I actively worked to bring the Secretariat to Seoul. As Director of International Cooperation at the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG), I knew that CITYNET's strong knowledge base would be an asset to our city, and I hoped that Korea could contribute its own experiences.

As Assistant Secretary General, and a representative of the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG), I warmly welcome you to Seoul. SMG is looking forward to learning from CITYNET member cities, and sharing knowledge and best practices beyond our borders. I hope to meet many of you at upcoming workshops, training programs and events, and hear your unique urban agendas.

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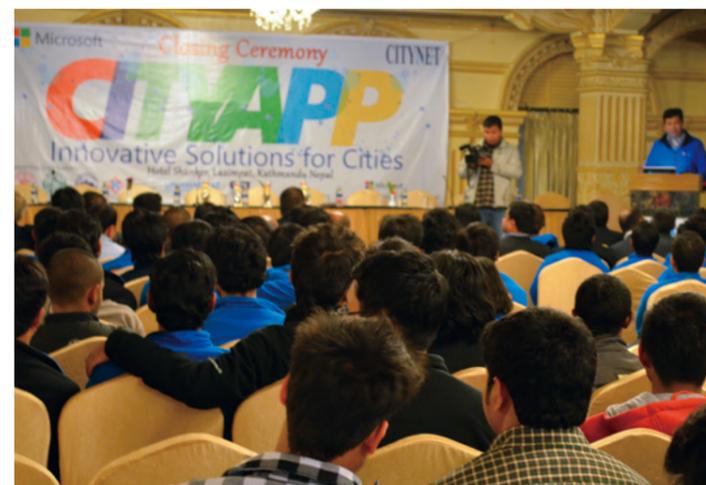
Left Photos: CityApp developers hard at work; Center: An eager crowd awaits the finalists selection; Right Top: Special Advisor Mary Jane Ortega of CITYNET and Stefan Sjöström, Vice President of Asia Public Sector at Microsoft sign an MOU for future collaboration; Right Bottom: VIPs at the CityApp Closing Ceremony

Spring Highlight: CityApp Kathmandu 2014

This spring the CITYNET network stepped forward as a leader in innovative technology programs. From March 13-15, CITYNET and Microsoft collaboratively organized CityApp Kathmandu 2014, a bold new initiative that married technology, government, youth, and research to create tangible solutions to urban challenges.

CityApp Kathmandu brought together government officials, developers, and citizens to conceptualize, build and implement innovative mobile and web applications that increase communication and transparency between citizens and government. Young developers from across Kathmandu's many universities researched urban challenges identified by government officials and created inspiring, innovative, and nimble solutions. With a diverse range of problems and an enthusiastic group of partners, Kathmandu was an ideal candidate for the first pilot CityApp program.

At a closing ceremony teeming with eminent personalities including the Vice President for Microsoft Asia, the CEO of Kathmandu, Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, Special Advisor to CITYNET, the Minister of Local Development and Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, the three most promising mobile and web applications were announced for incubation.

The winners, determined by a jury of 28 technology, business, and urban experts, offered inventive solutions to Katmandu's biggest urban problems via applications which married ingenuity, accessibility, business viability and sustainability. The winning applications were:

1st: Safety Whistle, a personal safety app allowing users to immediately alert a contact in an emergency.

2nd: LifeZine, a health and wellness application designed to give people timely and trustworthy health and medical information.

3rd: Track Mandu, a community based traffic and navigation app which shares real time traffic information between road users.

> *"This is an amazing event. The apps that our citizens have created will go a long way in ensuring the socio-economic sustainability of our city. It is a great showcase of the power of technology and the role it can play in making cities better for people,"*
>
> *Mr. Laxman Aryal, Kathmandu CEO*

The demo applications addressed specific target-areas identified by government and civil society officials, including health services, traffic management, public safety, and waste disposal. Participants also created solutions in response to their own urban experiences in areas from community libraries to crowdsourcing price indices. The creativity and initiative on display was a strong reminder of the benefit of empowering youth to shape their urban futures.

CITYNET friend Professor Junseok Hwang of Seoul National University's International Information Technology Policy Program (ITPP) visited the students during the event and discussed their ideas and strategies. "I think this is a great project because it puts social responsibility in the hands of the engineers," he said.

The participants were highly involved, and worked steadily throughout the three day event, with some barely pausing for meals. "As a citizen of Kathmandu, I experience these issues every day and have witnessed first-hand how important and urgent it is to find solutions. CityApp has enabled me to put my programming skills to use for the betterment of the city," said Yashasvi Raj Pant.

CITYNET and Microsoft look forward to continuing the CityApp program throughout the year. By replicating CityApp, CITYNET members can create their own tailored solutions to challenges on the ground, and share demo applications across the network.

Brenna Foster, Communications Officer, CITYNET. For more information see http://citynet-ap.org/cityapp-innovative-solutions/

Dr. Kim with Deputy Secretary General Aisa Tobing, Special Advisor Mary Jane Ortega, and Violeta Seva of Makati, Philippines

Interview with Deputy Secretary General Dr. Gyengchul Kim of the Korea Transport Institute

Dr. Gyengchul Kim was appointed Deputy Secretary General of CITYNET in 2008, and has been working with the network since 2004 as a supporter, friend, and resource. Dr. Kim is also the President of the Korea Transport Institute, an influential think tank in the world of transportation policy and sustainability. He works tirelessly to share Seoul's transportation knowledge and resources with CITYNET member cities. Below he has shared his ideas, plans and vision for the future.

How did you initially become involved with CITYNET?

In 2004, I was invited by the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Center (KLRTC) to speak about the newly implemented Seoul bus reforms. While there, I learned that KLRTC was supported by an organization called CITYNET. After I became more familiar with CITYNET, I was deeply motivated by its goals and potential to improve the sustainability of urban areas.

Dr. Kim and Special Advisor Chahl deep in discussion during the 2013 Seoul Congress

How can KOTI encourage the CITYNET network to promote resilient transportation?

KOTI has hosted an annual CITYNET training program since 2012, which encourages CITYNET members to more clearly understand urban transport development through case study analysis. This curriculum enhances members' capability as transport experts by sharing systems in different regions with various levels of resiliency. I believe this course of study enhances participants' capability to better cope with transport issues.

KOTI welcomes CITYNET members to participate in our training programs across diverse urban transport issues such as bus reform, bicycle policy, and eco-friendly transport strategies based on non-motorized transport (NMT).

How can Seoul's transportation systems and best practices effectively transfer to other urban areas with different levels of infrastructure development?

Looking at the city today, it is easy to forget that Seoul also experienced urban problems such as an insufficient and delayed implementation of infrastructure in the process of urbanization and motorization. Seoul overcame these challenges with well-directed urban transportation policies and IT technologies.

I hope the CITYNET network learns from Seoul's trials and errors experienced throughout the process of development, from the rapid urbanization experienced in the 1970s and

Dr. Kim welcomes participants at the Sustainable Urban Transport workshop in 2013

the growth of car ownership in the early 2000s. Seoul addressed its car-oriented reality by promoting public transportation through an eco-friendly transport policy and IT technology. I would like to share the lessons we have learned from this process with the CITYNET network.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the future of cities in Asia?

Asian cities will face all the problems associated with rapid urbanization including poverty, pollution and insufficient urban infrastructure. To tackle this challenge, it is necessary for CITYNET members to set up sufficient goals and strategic plans. I suggest the three goals that Seoul has pursued: relieving poverty, reducing greenhouse gases, and promoting knowledge sharing. As a way to raise institutional and human capability, I strongly recommend establishing a government-invested think tank like the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) to advise decision makers on the proper path for development.

Dr. Kim listens to discussion at the 30th Executive Committee meeting

What is your vision for the CITYNET network over the next four years? What projects would you like to see in the future?

I want to build a hub-and-spoke knowledge sharing system throughout the network. It could be done by establishing KOTI-like think tanks in member cities and connecting them across the network. Even if not every think tank project succeeds, we can learn from our mistakes and promote the most successful cases for others to follow.

On a personal level, what are you most excited about in the future of urban development in Asia? What do you predict will be the most exciting development in the next four years?

Personally, I think cities need to take a serious look at how to combat air pollution. Projects to change the existing transport system to an e-mobility system through ICT will be a major step forward. Prohibiting motorcycle access to the urban area could also work. I am eager to see the steps cities will take to create clean and sustainable environments.

As Deputy Secretary General, what do you see as CITYNET's biggest achievement so far?

CITYNET's greatest achievement is creating active communication among its 100+ member cities. Communication improves understanding and naturally scales up exchange opportunities over time. Information gaps between North and South are corrected and sometimes even reversed, with information flowing from South to North. I expect that CITYNET will learn how to communicate and share knowledge at an institutional level.

Outside of transportation, what other areas can CITYNET work to improve?

Cities are like ecosystems, self-sustainable under balanced conditions. Many diverse areas need to be addressed to guarantee the sustainable growth of cities. Outside of transportation, I see three critical issues for Asian cities; water sanitation, education, and internet access. Currently, poor water sanitation systems undermine public health, a lack of education reduces people's opportunity to grow, and gaps in internet access trigger class divides. I hope CITYNET will address these issues, together with transportation, to create an integrated perspective.

Dr. Kim with CITYNET and Seoul officials in 2012

Joris van Etten presents CDIA's work at the 2013 CITYNET Seoul Congress

CDIA:
Helping Build Urban Resilience Through Infrastructure Investments

On 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in history, cut across the central part of the Philippines, claiming thousands of lives, and causing damage and loss initially estimated at US$ 13 billion.

According to the UN, about 3 million people have been displaced with about 400,000 living in more than 1,186 evacuation centers. The damage to national and local roads, bridges, flood control, and public buildings totals US$96 million.

It is in crisis situations like post-Haiyan that the Cities Development Initiative for Asia's (CDIA) role in linking Asian cities to infrastructure finance becomes more crucial.

"In the aftermath of disasters like Typhoon Haiyan, CDIA would pick up on work done by others such as the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), UN Habitat, and many others. CDIA believes that the best approach to disaster management is disaster preparedness. CDIA is supporting and empowering cities before disaster strikes by increasing the

climate resilience of infrastructure – and that is by climate-proofing the cities," says Bernhard Dohle, CDIA Program Coordinator.

Eva Ringhof, CDIA Social Development Specialist adds, "We are also involved in UN Shelter Cluster meetings to follow the activities, in particular the need for reconstruction. How to "build back better" is of utmost importance for the affected people. To assist, we are looking for long-term solutions wherein our experience and expertise can be shared."

Through its participating members such as the Asian Development Bank,

and the governments of Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and Shanghai (China), CDIA can bring together technical, financial, and capacity-building resources required by cities to structure investment projects.

CDIA assists cities in the Asian region to design infrastructure investment projects using inclusive tools and mechanisms to guarantee that all stakeholders, beneficiaries and affected populations, especially the urban poor, take active part in the planning process. By taking vulnerability assessments as a starting point, CDIA supports cities to identify projects and possible financing to adapt to climate change and typhoons.

CDIA bridges the gap between the cities' development plans and the implementation of their infrastructure investments. It uses a demand driven approach to support the identification and development of urban investment projects in the framework of existing city development plans that emphasize environmental sustainability, pro-poor development, good governance, and climate change.
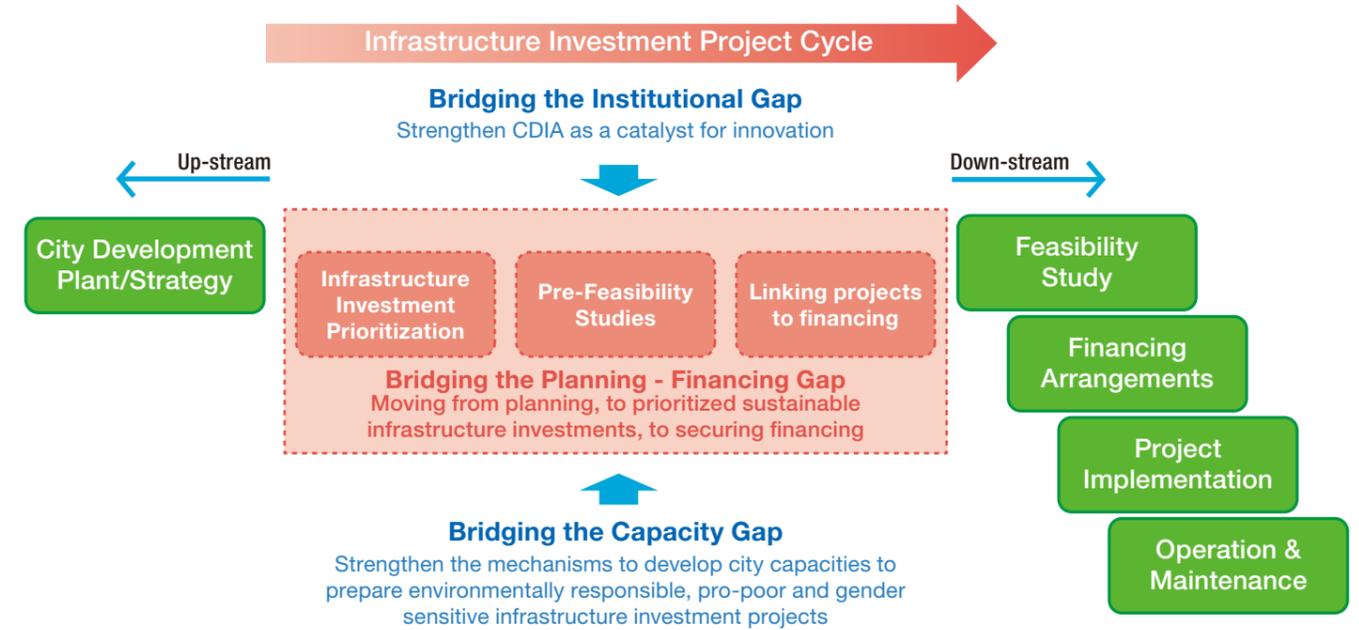
CDIA Focus Areas

CDIA provides direct support and it provides direct support and capacity development inputs to cities for the implementation of the development plans though a number of core activities. These comprise a range of mechanisms and tools that generally include one or more of the following elements: Infrastructure Investment Programming and Prioritization, Pre-feasibility Studies (PFS), Linking Cities to Finance, and City-level Capacity Development.

Since its establishment in 2007, CDIA has assisted several cities to reduce the impacts of disasters and climate change through the

development of projects on improving land and water transport, as well as storm water and sewage facilities.

An example of CDIA's post-disaster work would be in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Since the tsunami in 2004, there has been considerable effort to reconstruct the city's damaged infrastructure. The challenge being faced by the local authority is how to create an environment which fosters sustainable economic and urban development. Banda Aceh received support from CDIA to prepare a comprehensive riverfront city development project that includes economic development,

environmental infrastructure, urban transport, and tertiary infrastructure. The project is financed through a Public Private Partnership set-up.

Through collaborations at the policy and operational levels, CDIA is forming a growing international network of members with a shared interest in urban development. In addition to local and national governments from across Asia, the CDIA network also includes international infrastructure advisors, financiers, suppliers, and operators. CDIA links its city partners to the most suitable development institutions, and in the same way links the private-sector members such as banks, institutional investors, and developers to potential urban development projects.

Whether it's a post-disaster city or a developing city, CDIA helps connect Asian cities to the finance they need to implement their investment programs. For more information, go to http://www.cdia.asia/.

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING OPTIONS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

CityNet and CDIA will be offering this short course to help governments identify alternative financing options for infrastructure investments. The three-day workshop will take place from July 15th-18th in Seoul, Korea. For more information, please contact Mr. Toby Roycroft programs1@citynet-ap.org.

Bernhard Dohle; email: bernhard.dohle@cdia.asia

CDIA experts together with local government officers from Banda Aceh, Indonesia, reviewing options for climate resilience infrastructure investments

Clean Air Asia representative Kaye Patdu during the 2013 CITYNET Seoul Congress

Cities in Action:
Finding Solutions for Clean Air in Asia

Seven out of ten cities in developing Asia have unhealthy levels of air pollution, measured as annual levels of particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10).[1] Recent estimates from the 2010 Global Burden of Disease found that outdoor air pollution is a much more significant public health risk than previously known — contributing annually to 2.1 million premature deaths in Asia.[2] This puts outdoor air pollution among the top five risks in the region. In 2013, the World Health Organization declared that exposure to outdoor air pollution is carcinogenic.[3]

Climate change has also become an area of concern in recent years. Cities are especially vulnerable; especially when considering that over the next 30 years, urban populations will grow by another 1.1 billion people.[4] Alarmingly, climate change mitigation is still in its infancy in Asia. Only 3% of 900 Asian cities surveyed in 2012 have developed a climate change plan.[5]

Integrating air quality management and climate change mitigation is co-beneficial since air pollutants and greenhouse gases (GHGs) are generally emitted from similar sources.

WHAT IS CLEAN AIR ASIA?

Clean Air Asia was established in 2001 as the premier air quality network in Asia by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, and USAID. Its mission is to promote better air quality and livable cities by translating knowledge into policies that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transport, energy and other sectors. Its activities are categorized into: 1) Air Quality and Climate Change, 2) Low Emissions and Urban Development, 3) Green Freight and Logistics and, 4) Clean Fuels and Vehicles.

KEY TOOLS FOR CITIES

Clean Air Asia has developed three key tools to improve air quality: the Clean Air Scorecard, the Walkability Survey, and the Rapid Assessment of City Emissions (RACE) tool. These tools are used to improve the management of urban air pollution and emissions.
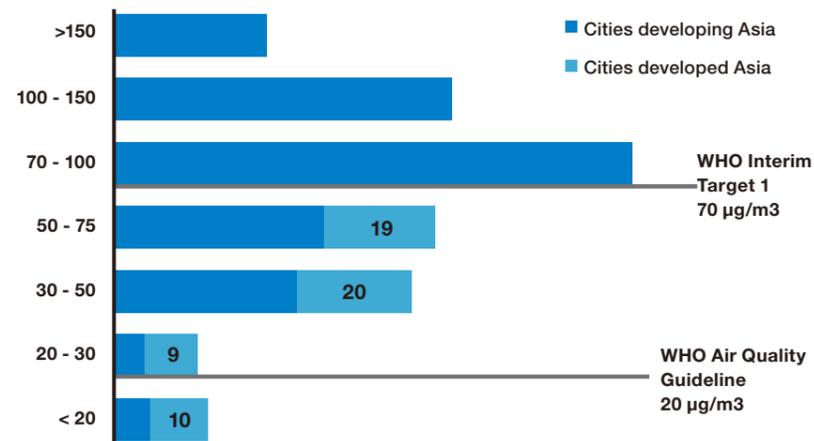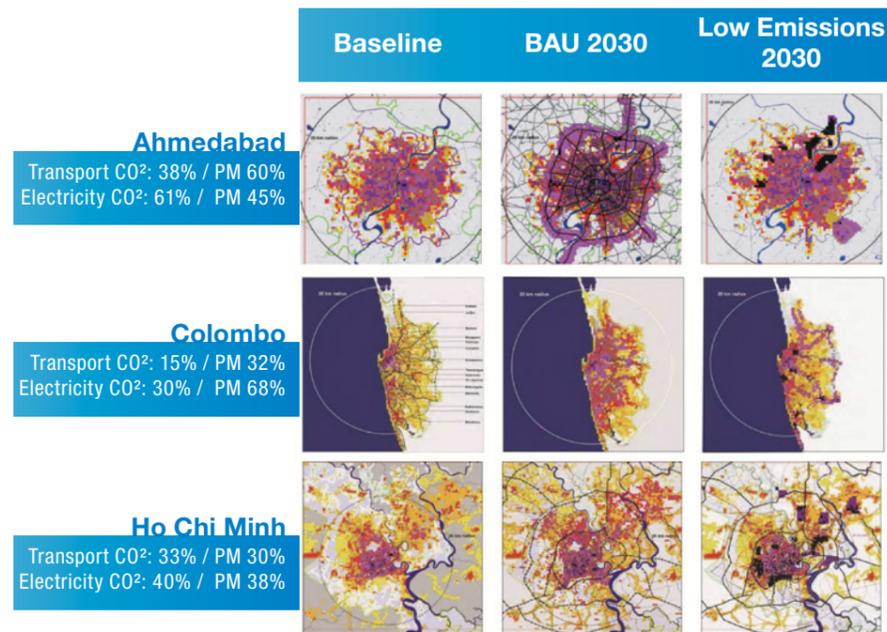
The Clean Air Scorecard is an assessment tool for cities to understand the status of their clean air management and identify strengths and potential improvement areas. It is composed of three indexes: Air Pollution and Health, Clean Air Management Capacity, and Policies and Action. This was developed with the ADB. The Walkability Survey determines the state of pedestrian facilities by looking at different aspects of walkability. It yields a "Walkability Index," which provides an overview of current infrastructure and policies, and can be used to develop and propose pedestrian focused solutions.

The RACE tool was developed with the ADB and Chreod Ltd., to support low-emission urban development. It assesses the impacts of land use planning by calculating emissions from transport and buildings and visualizing them through GIS maps. Business as usual and a low emissions development scenario for 2030 are developed. The tool was tested in Ahmedabad, Colombo, and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). One of the key results in HCMC was that a significant portion of planned development areas were found to be flood-prone.

SUPPORT TO CITIES

This initiative helps developing Asian cities improve air quality management, reducing impacts detrimental to health, economic, and social sectors. It includes the Clean Air Scorecard, capacity improvement support, Clean Air Report and website, and development and implementation of Clean Air Plans.

Key to this is an understanding of air quality concerns, generating and documenting practical, hands-on and cost-effective solutions to help cities overcome barriers, and promoting inter-city and region-wide information sharing to generate insights and replication of best practices.

INVITATION TO THE 2014 BETTER AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE

Improved air quality conditions can only be achieved through commitment and combined efforts of all stakeholders. Clean Air Asia and its partners organize the biennial Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference, Asia's leading forum on urban air quality, climate change, transport, and energy. Since 2002, it has brought together more than 600 practitioners, policy makers, and industry leaders to establish partnerships, guide policy, and exchange best practices. This year, the BAQ conference is co-organized by Clean Air Asia, the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Sri Lanka, Clean Air Sri Lanka, and other partners. It will be held from 19-21 November in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For more details, visit http://www.baq2014.org

Kaye Patdu, Air Quality Program Manager, and Cherine Capadocia, Environment Researcher

References:

1 Clean Air Asia. (2011). Status and Trends in Air Quality Management

2 Lim, et. al., S. S. (2012). A comparative risk assessment of burden of disease and injury attributable to 67 risk factors and risk factor clusters in 21 regions, 1990–2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. The Lancet , 380, 2224-60.

3 International Agency for Research on Cancer. (2013). Press Release: IARC: Outdoor air pollution a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths. Retrieved February 2014 from http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2012/pdfs/pr221_E.pdf

4 Asian Development Bank (2010). Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific

5 Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center (CAI-Asia) & Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA). (2012). Climate Change Plans and Infrastructure in Asian Cities

	Baseline	BAU 2030	Low Emissions 2030
Ahmedabad Transport CO²: 38% / PM 60% Electricity CO²: 61% / PM 45%			
Colombo Transport CO²: 15% / PM 32% Electricity CO²: 30% / PM 68%			
Ho Chi Minh Transport CO²: 33% / PM 30% Electricity CO²: 40% / PM 38%			

Key results of RACE Application in Ahmedabad, Colombo, and HCMC

BAQ
BETTER AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE
sri lanka
19-21 November 2014

Group Photo at the BAQ 2010 Conference in Singapore

PM10 annual average concentrations µg/m3

- ■ Cities developing Asia
- ■ Cities developed Asia

>150	
100 - 150	
70 - 100	WHO Interim Target 1 70 µg/m3
50 - 75	19
30 - 50	20
20 - 30	9
	WHO Air Quality Guideline 20 µg/m3
< 20	10

Source: Clean Air Asia, 2013

Annual average PM10 levels in selected developing Asian cities (2010)

WBCSD:
Working with Business to Drive Urban Resilience

WBCSD presented at the 2013 CITYNET Seoul Congress

The concentration of people, resources, and infrastructure in cities is making societies more vulnerable to disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change. It is increasingly being recognized that cities will bear the major burden of the costs and risks associated with climate change adaptation, as well as the responsibility of establishing much more resilient infrastructure. These challenges add to the complexity that many city leaders in the Asia Pacific are already facing in meeting the needs of fast growing economies and populations, while also seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental quality.

The private sector is also increasingly seeing resilience as a key issue. Recent events – such as the floods in Thailand in 2011 that severely disrupted the global computer industry – have highlighted the importance of building resilience in both local operations

and global value chains. Furthermore, leading businesses are developing solutions and strategies to manage risks in their operations and to improve the resilience of all forms of infrastructure. A key question is then: how can cities and business better work together to identify climate- and disaster-related risks as well as effective strategies and solutions to address these risks?

The Urban Infrastructure Initiative (UII) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) provides an innovative example of how this type of strategic engagement can work in practice. The WBCSD established the UII to advance the urban sustainability agenda by showcasing the critical role

Matthew Lynch, Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development speaks to participants at the 2013 CITYNET Seoul Congress

that business can play as solutions providers and by providing a platform for collaborative strategic engagement between cities and business.

The UII brought together 14 leading member companies with an array of knowledge and skills to help unlock opportunities for urban authorities to create more sustainable, efficient and livable cities. This multi-sector, multi-company group worked 10 leading cities around the world, including 6 in the Asia Pacific region: Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara in Gujarat State (India); Yixing (China); and Kobe (Japan).

In each city, the UII mobilized a multi-disciplinary team of company experts to work collaboratively with senior city officials. These teams took an integrated, cross-sector approach to analyzing the city's major sustainability challenges and to developing an innovative "solutions landscape" (i.e. a portfolio of practical solutions) to address these challenges.
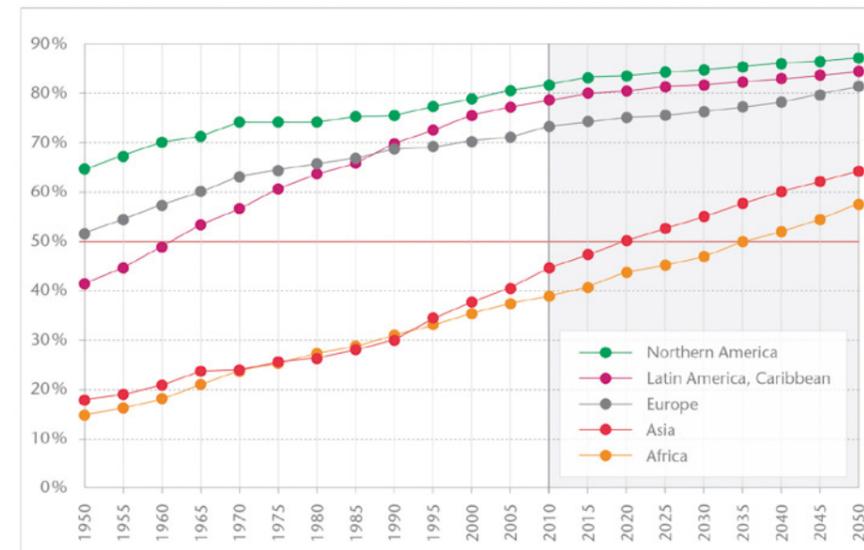
Growth of proportion of the population residing in urban areas by region (1950 to 2050)
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012)

Over the course of the UII project, the WBCSD has observed that climate and disaster resilience is becoming an urgent priority for city leaders around the world. The UII was also fortunate to benefit from working with the City of Kobe in Japan, a world leader in infrastructure resilience through their experience in recovering from the

1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (http://www.wbcsd.org/uiikobereport.aspx). The city's initiatives include establishing disaster-resistant urban infrastructure using enhanced networking, improved building codes to improve structural earthquake resistance, while also educating and mobilizing the power of local citizens.

The final report of the UII was published in April 2014. It contains a number of recommendations for cities to consider how they can work more effectively with the private sector to help address major sustainability and development challenges. Collaborative engagement to leverage the knowledge and innovation capacity of business should be a key component of a city leader's toolbox particularly for addressing such a complex and urgent challenge as building urban resilience.

For more information: http://www.wbcsd.org/urban-infrastructure.aspx

Editors note:
A copy of the UII Final Report is being distributed to all CITYNET members with the Spring Issue of CityVoices. The report is also available for download at: http://www.wbcsd.org/urban-infrastructure.aspx

Matthew Lynch, Director Urban Infrastructure Initiative, WBCSD

wbcsd business solutions for a sustainable world
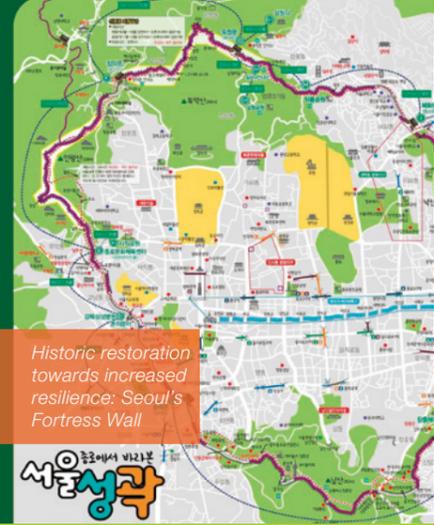
Seoulutions for Urban Development:
A Conversation with President Changhyun Lee
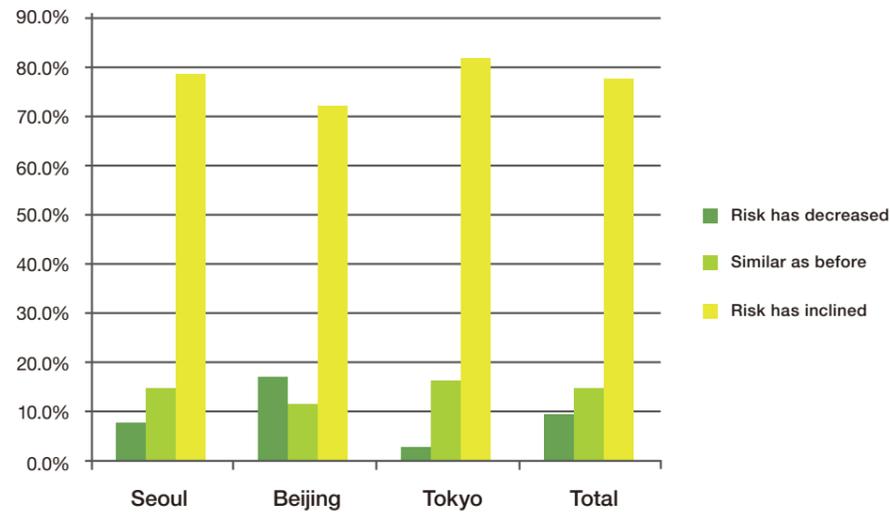
Risk awareness in Asian megacities

The German sociologist Ulrich Beck has called contemporary society a 'risk society'. As modern society has advanced in diverse areas, associated risks have increased in tandem, requiring these risks to be managed systematically. On a global scale, excessive reliance on carbon energy has resulted in climate change, which in turn is becoming a serious threat to human civilization. At the country level, Japan is faced with a constant threat from nuclear radiation, while China is struggling to overcome air pollution as micro particles in the air pose a different threat to citizens' health.

Risk is more serious in global megacities. Problems with transportation, housing, air pollution, and safety issues resulting from overpopulation are challenging municipal, local and national governments. Overcoming these risks and increasing urban resilience are tasks central to the future

of cities. Sustainable planning which allows cities to coexist with nature and citizens is essential.

Seoul, a city with a population of 10 million, is currently striving hard to solve megacity risk factors and increase resilience on its path to becoming a safe society. In particular, Seoul seeks to protect vulnerable low-income groups from environmental risks through balancing development and preservation with growth and distribution. To this end, risk factors are monitored through citizen participation, while fundamental solutions are formulated through international communication. The Seoul Institute, which oversaw 50 years of compressed growth, would like to share Seoul's diverse policy solutions, or 'Seoulutions' with other Asian megacities.

The Seoul Institute on the road to Seoul's future

International Idea Competition
for professionals and students
마포석유비축기지 활용방안 국제아이디어 공모
Design competition for oil energy transformative city

Changhyun Lee, President, The Seoul Institute

100 Resilient Cities Campaign:
How can your city take part?

As climate change continues to capture headlines, cities across the globe are scrambling to weatherproof their services, infrastructure, and settlements. The importance of resilience, the ability of cities to withstand and bounce back from catastrophic events, is increasingly evident to citizens and governments.

"The world is urbanizing in a way it really hasn't before. 100 years ago, only one in ten people lived in cities. Now 50% of the world's population lives there. Improving the resiliency of our urban areas is essential in this environment"

Mr. Berkowitz
Rockefeller Foundation

During the 2013 CITYNET Seoul Congress, Michael Berkowitz, Managing Director of the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge at the Rockefeller Foundation, presented the case for resilience to a wide audience. Representatives from civil society organizations, governments, and academia listened as Mr. Berkowitz

introduced his organization's initiative and fielded questions from the crowd.

CITYNET member cities Bangkok (Thailand), Da Nang (Vietnam), and Semerang (Indonesia) were selected as part of the initial 100 Resilient Cities Network. Each city will receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience over the next three years.

BANGKOK

"The rapid expansion of Bangkok with inadequate urban planning in the past has made the city more vulnerable to natural disasters, especially flooding which is exacerbated by climate change, soil erosion and land subsidence. Strengthening flooding resilience in Bangkok is our biggest challenge. Resilience to other crises, such as disruptions of politics, economy and terrorism, is also taken into account.

The 100 Resilient Cities Challenge will provide a platform in which Bangkok Metropolitan Administration can exchange with other selected cities the experiences, technicalities and knowledge of resilience-building to withstand and handle any type of crises, including those we may have overlooked. A resilience plan developed by the project would help us save many people's lives and property during any future calamity that might occur, and help us significantly reduce the cost of dealing with and recovering from such calamity, and would lead further towards the path of sustainability."

DA NANG

"On December 3rd, 2013, The Rockefeller Foundation announced the selection of Da Nang as a member of the 100 Resilient Cities Program. This is a great honor for the city as it creates opportunities for cooperation and development. It is my hope that this program will allow Da Nang to learn from international experience and develop the city's resilience to climate change.

Located in the central coastal region of Vietnam, Da Nang is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially hurricanes, floods and droughts. The recent extreme weather has demonstrated clear impacts of climate change on the city. Through exchanging and sharing lessons with other cities in the program, we desire to develop our own strategies, technical, scientific and financial solutions for prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and climate change impacts.

Further, we would like to share practical experiences with other cities in integrating environmental protection into urban strategic planning, and in encouraging active participation from different sectors, especially from the local community, in climate change response and mitigation of natural disasters. Our aim is to build a sustainable and people-friendly Da Nang."

For more information, visit http://100resilientcities. rockefellerfoundation.org/

HUDCO Headquarters, lead organization of the India National Chapter

Establishing the CITYNET India National Chapter

The CITYNET India National Chapter was formed on December 16, 2013 with HUDCO at the helm. Over 30 delegates from cities, national level organizations, urban development authorities, housing boards, non-governmental organizations, individuals and representatives from the CITYNET Secretariat participated in the deliberations of the first meeting of CITYNET National Chapter India. Ms Youngmin Chang, Director of Partner Development attended from the Secretariat.

From HUDCO, Mr V P Baligar, Chairman and Managing Director, Mr NL Manjoka, Director Corporate Planning, Shri AK Kaushik, Director Finance, Dr. P Jayapal, Senior Executive Director, Dr. SK Gupta, Executive Director and Shri Rajesh Goel, Executive Director also participated in the meeting. Dr. Vinay D Lal, Director, Society for Development Studies, Mr Kirtee Shah, DPS Architect, Shri KN Tobgay, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC), Shri Shakti Singh Choudhary, Deputy Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC), Shri Ranjit Dhakane, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Mumbai, Shri SK Mahajan, Project Director, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Dr. KK Pandey, Indian Institute of

Public Administration, New Delhi also actively participated in the meeting.

The inaugural Indian National Chapter meeting elected HUDCO as the lead agency to oversee development, and the following officials:

- Mr V P Baligar, Ex-Officio Chairperson of CITYNET National Chapter, India

- Dr. P Jayapal, Secretary General

- Dr. SK Gupta, Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) Contact Person

- Shri Rajesh Goel, HUDCO Contact Person

The inaugural Indian National Chapter meeting elected HUDCO as the lead agency to oversee development, and the following issues:

- Create opportunities for Indian members to discuss urban problems and build their own capacity.

- Disseminate CITYNET information and publications.

- Promote the exchange of expertise and experience in urban issues.

- Promote CITYNET activities in local languages.

- Promote co-operation between National Chapter members and other organizations outside India.

- Conduct seminars, workshops, study visits and training programs at local and national levels for the

benefit of members, in consultation with the CITYNET Secretariat.

- Conduct any other activities beneficial to its members.

In the first year of its establishment, the CITYNET National Chapter India will undertake the following activities for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India:

- Conduct one international and one national level capacity building program, in collaboration with HSMI/HUDCO in the areas of Sustainable Urban Development.

- Establish a conference or seminar with several cities in India on the theme of Slum Upgrading.

- Disseminate HUDCO best practices, innovative designs and research reports among ULBs in India and in the region.

- Promote exchange visits between ULB officials under the Technical Cooperation and Development Exchange (TCDC) program of CITYNET.

32nd Executive Committee Meeting
Hue, Vietnam

November 28-30, 2014
Seoul, South Korea

For more information contact:
info@citynet-ap.org

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

Voices on the Street

"As the fastest urbanizing country in South Asia, with unprecedented reliance on monsoons for irrigation energy and groundwater recharging, there has never been a greater need to make rainwater harvesting and solar power the norm."

Kashish Das Shrestha,
Policy Analyst and Author at SustianableNepal.org

"Phnom Penh can be more resilient if the city is cleaner and safer at night. If all citizens are motivated to participate in a "clean city" campaign, Phnom Penh will be more likely to have a much better environment."

Molyna Noun,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

"My city would be more resilient if we could create more green space, including public parks for leisure activities"

Eun Ji Kyung,
Seoul, South Korea

Let Your Voices Be Heard!
CityVoices invites members and partners to share best practices, feedback or comments:
info@citynet-ap.org or communication@citynet-ap.org

Next CityVoices

Coming Fall 2014

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 and 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 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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together we can do more.