

# CITYNET

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

## Annual Report 2007



[www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org)

# 20 Years of CITYNET: A Story Still Unfolding

The year 2007 marked a watershed in CITYNET's history. It signalled 20 years of existence of a Network that has sustained through helping local governments in the Asia-Pacific achieve their potential and serve their citizens better.

CITYNET came into being through the initiative of cities and their partners. Through times of abundant resources and at times on a shoestring budget, the Network has managed to sustain itself. Its roots in a genuine need for networking and knowledge transfer among local governments and their partners have ensured its success. Today, with over 100 members across the Asia-Pacific and beyond, CITYNET is the largest network of its kind in the Region.

There are several factors responsible for the success of CITYNET. One of the key elements is the unique inclusive nature of the Organisation. Starting out with local governments and civil society groups, over the years CITYNET has opened its doors to development authorities, municipal associations, academia, and, more recently, to the private sector. It has, within its folds, the entire range of stakeholders in the urban development process. This has created immense learning potential inside the Organisation. Partnership projects, such as AWAREE (see Page 4), initiated and implemented in several member cities of CITYNET, have consistently grown more productive, with richer outcomes.

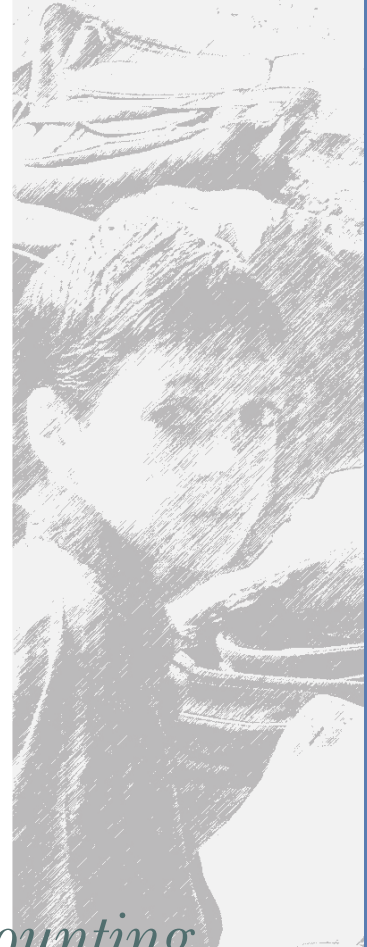
City-to-city cooperation, which has been the mainstay of the CITYNET philosophy, has emerged as the most effective tool in bringing about positive change. From direct technical exchanges among cities, programmes have progressed to the next level – three-way partnerships between multiple beneficiary and recipient cities and funding agencies – with CITYNET playing the bridge. Longer term programmes and projects, with far-reaching objectives, have increasingly become the norm.

CITYNET's organisational structure has also grown in tandem with its work. Priority Clusters of members, National Chapters bringing together members and non-members within a country, and plans for a new Satellite Office are now decentralising the functioning and enhancing effectiveness of the Network. As its work has widened in influence, international recognition, such as the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour received in 2002, has come CITYNET's way.

The most exciting part of the CITYNET story is that it is still unfolding in myriad ways. Cities in Asia are growing rapidly and continue to see the benefits of being part of this intensely active community. Today, the CITYNET dream of a better urban reality has expanded to include members and partners from not just the Asia-Pacific, but from all around the world.



*Members cutting a cake during the reception to celebrate the 20 years of the Network.*



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## *20 Years and Counting...*

I would like to thank and congratulate members and partners of CITYNET, and all our well-wishers who have cooperated with us and worked together for urban development over the past 20 years. Our hard work has led to improvement in the quality of life of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific and, in this anniversary year, we can look back on our achievements with satisfaction.

More than 2,300 municipal officials and representatives of civil society organisations have passed through CITYNET capacity-building and training programmes in these two decades. We have conducted over 370 study visits and technical advisory service visits, and have seen technology and knowledge transfers

that have touched the lives of our citizens. We have forged successful partnerships and contributed new concepts to urban development.

Throughout the year, we will hold events to celebrate these achievements, but also to take stock of where we are – and where we go next. Our challenge, I feel, is to avoid complacency. We cannot rest on our laurels. More than 1.5 billion people in the Asia-Pacific still lack access to basic sanitation services, and over 700 million live on less than a dollar a day. Asia itself will have an urban population of 2.6 billion by 2030. We have to keep up our efforts, and I hope members, partners, and the wisdom of our citizens continue to drive CITYNET as always.



*Mr. Hiroshi Nakada  
President of CITYNET  
Mayor of Yokohama*



# Decentralisation Emerging as a Pillar

Due to rapid urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific, there has been greater demand for CITYNET's services in recent years. With limited resources and finite manpower at the Secretariat in Yokohama, Japan, decentralisation has been a core concern for CITYNET in its own organisational functioning.

One of the earliest experiments with devolution of authority and functions was in 2001, with the formation of the first CITYNET National Chapter, in Nepal. The idea was to bring together all CITYNET members in the Country, and allow non-members to join as well. The resultant national level entity had the responsibility for shaping and implementing programmes suited to local needs in that country and raising funds for these. The Nepal National Chapter was followed shortly by Bangladesh (1995) and Sri Lanka (1998), and, more recently, by the CITYNET Indonesia National Chapter (2007). With some initial slow years and a lot of encouragement from members and partners, National Chapters have now come into their own.

Another initiative that has given impetus to this trend is the creation of Priority Clusters. Clusters are groupings of CITYNET members according to their developmental needs and concerns, with the authority to develop their own programmes, and to fund and coordinate their own activities. Nearly all CITYNET activities are now divided by focus areas into Cluster activities. The five Clusters – Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Enviro (Solid Waste Management), Enviro (Water and Sanitation), Information Communication Technology (ICT), Infra, and Disaster – are involved in formulating their action plans and finding partners and support for their projects.

Another idea that is now taking shape is the launch of the first CITYNET Satellite Office. At the 22nd Session of the Executive Committee, held in 2006, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), India, offered to host the Office. With space and resources provided by the host City, the Satellite Office will share responsibility for coordination and other support functions with the Secretariat, not just for that country, but for the Network as a whole.

Yet another first has been the launch of a Joint Office focused on the MDGs by CITYNET, the CITYNET Nepal National Chapter, the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN - a CITYNET member), and the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC).

In maximising on limited resources, increasing CITYNET's footprint, and enhancing its services to members through intense customisation, decentralisation has proven an effective strategy for the Network. As all of the above initiatives grow stronger, their cumulative effect is increasing the quantity and quality of CITYNET's offerings.

## *An Eventful Year*



*Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl  
CITYNET Secretary-General*

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2007 CITYNET Annual Report. 2007 is an important year for CITYNET, as the Network celebrates the 20th year of its establishment. I congratulate the entire Network on this milestone.

Overall, 36 programme activities were organised, and several important organisational issues were addressed this year. The Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC or CIFAL Kuala Lumpur), and various other training courses were conducted, and Priority Clusters began to take charge of their action plans. The success of long-term projects – AWAREE (Awareness on Environmental Education in Asian Cities) and PRO-ACT – propelled partners into follow-up project plans. I feel most gratified with the continued knowledge flow to cities affected by the 2004

Indian Ocean Tsunami and the 2005 Pakistan Earthquake.

The 23rd Session of the Executive Committee meeting discussed measures to strengthen the financial and organisational basis of CITYNET, such as the CITYNET Foundation based in Makati and the Satellite Office in Mumbai. Also, new members joined the Network and further shored up the organisation.

I hope that regular updates on all these activities have been reaching you through our communication vehicles – newsletters, publications, and the website. We are looking for your feedback on these and on CITYNET activities. I thank all of you who have contributed to the 2007 activities of the Network, and look forward to even greater cooperation in 2008.

# Organisation Focus on the Private Sector

The organisational strength of CITYNET has always been the bedrock of its growth and ability to provide services in excess of its resources. This and other issues were discussed at the **23rd Session of the Executive Committee**, held in Makati, Philippines, in November 2007. The current Executive Committee of CITYNET includes Yokohama, which is also the President City, Vice-Presidents Mumbai and Bangkok, and the other Executive Committee members Colombo, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Makati, Seoul, All India Institute of Local Self Government (AILSG), Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), and the Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI/AIM). Committee members also ratified the Biennial Plan (2008-2009), and Programme and Institutional Plans for 2008.

On the growth front, one of the key areas identified for institutional focus was developing partnerships with the private sector. Another avenue of partnership suggested by the Executive Committee was with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), with which CITYNET shares common objectives.

The Executive Committee also took stock of the preparations for the 2009 CITYNET Congress, to be held in Yokohama in the Autumn. The Congress will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of Yokohama Port, and celebrations for both events will be held simultaneously in the City.

## National Chapters Gradually Maturing

During 2007, National Chapters reported heightened activity, though some are still to achieve their full potential.

**Bangladesh** - The Chapter, hosted by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), received a delegation from CITYNET, UNMC, and MuAN on MDGs localisation.

**Indonesia** - The CITYNET Indonesia National Chapter office-bearers include Sukabumi as President, Bandung and Tomohon as Vice-Presidents, Palembang as Treasurer, and APEKSI/AIM as Executive Director. In July 2007, the Chapter organised a workshop on disaster preparedness for local governments particularly in Indonesia, and also compiled Indonesian city reports on MDGs localisation.

**Nepal** - The Chapter has focused on MDGs localisation as a key concern. While MuAN hosts the Secretariat, the Chapter has Kathmandu as the President, and

Birganj as its Vice-President. With all Nepali municipalities as members, it released a set of fully customised guidelines for them to achieve the MDGs, and has also been supporting the CITYNET-UNMC Joint Office on MDGs for Local Authorities in the South Asian region.

**Sri Lanka** - The Sri Lanka National Chapter went through a dormant stage until it took charge of CITYNET's aid coordination within the Country following the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004. Hosted by the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), with Kurunegala as the President and Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia and Matale as Vice-Presidents, the Chapter also played an important role in the two-year Euro-Asian PRO-ACT Project.

## Staff Secondment Programme

Ms. Desi Yusfriani, from Banda Aceh City Hall, Indonesia, wrapped up her term at the Secretariat in March, having undergone intensive capacity-building during her stay. She focused on disaster prevention and management, and international relations during her tenure. A representative of the Municipal Association of Nepal was then inducted into the Programme at the Secretariat, and completed over two months of training. Mr. Vu Tuan Dung of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, succeeded him and continued to actively pursue his own and his City's objectives during his stay in Yokohama.



Makati Mayor Hon. Jejomar C. Binay (left) and the CITYNET Secretary-General during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee.



## Suwon Helps Out as Auditor

Representatives of Suwon, elected Auditor for a four-year term at the 5th General Council of CITYNET in 2005, visited the Secretariat and conducted the annual financial Audit, suggesting a variety of means to optimise on the resources of the Network.



## New Members

Four new members were inducted during the 23rd Executive Committee Meeting. A warm welcome to each new member!

### Full Member

- ▶ Surabaya City Government, Indonesia

### Associate Members

- ▶ Association of Cities of Vietnam
- ▶ Observatory PASCAL (Place Management, Social Capital, and Learning Regions), Melbourne, Australia
- ▶ Tirtanadi Water Supply and Drainage, Medan, Indonesia



# Long-Term Projects Thrive on Partnerships



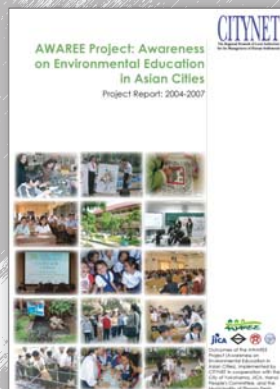
*CITYNET President and Mayor of Yokohama, Mr. Hiroshi Nakada (left) with the Mayor of Lyon and EUROCITIES President, Mr. Gerard Collomb, after signing an agreement to extend the partnership between the two organisations.*



*Participants at the KLRTC XI on Integrated Urban Planning.*



*Community Centre inaugurated in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.*



*Final report of the AWAREE Project published in June 2007.*

A partnership-based approach to urban development is one of the aspects of CITYNET that has held it in good stead. Long-term projects have been sustained through these partnerships and are bringing benefits to the communities they serve.

## PRO-ACT Project: The legacy continues

The two-year PRO-ACT Project ended in November 2006. The Project's legacy, however, turned out to be far-reaching. The nature of PRO-ACT partnerships established a new model for urban projects. Each pilot under PRO-ACT had a tripartite partnership structure: an Asian recipient city, a European resource city, and an international funding agency. This enhanced the sustainability of the projects, and also showcased the efficacy of decentralised cooperation to bilateral and multilateral aid agencies. A growing number of international agencies have since included C2C cooperation in their programme plans.

Partners (CITYNET, EUROCITIES, Colombo City as the host of the CITYNET Sri Lanka National Chapter, and Greater Lyon, France) and participants alike wanted the six PRO-ACT pilot projects to be taken further after the Project ended. Consequently, CITYNET and EUROCITIES signed an agreement in May 2007, pledging to continue their exchanges in line with PRO-ACT outcomes.

## KLRTC: Fertile ground for fresh ideas

Another long-term project that has sustained in large part due to the vibrant partnerships behind it is the KLRTC (Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre or CIFAL Kuala Lumpur), which has CITYNET, UNITAR, Kuala Lumpur City, Veolia Environnement and others as partners. In 2007, KLRTC hosted three courses – on sustainable urban transport, integrated urban planning for sustainable urban management, and sanitation improvement in Asian cities. Over 80 municipal officials and representatives of civil society organisations were trained, and left geared with strategies to help their cities and organisations provide better services to citizens.

PURSUE C2C (Partners United for Realising a Sustainable Urban Environment through City-to-City Cooperation), a CITYNET initiative, continued to support projects arising out of the 'matchmaking' sessions at KLRTC, where cities share their ideas and action plans with resource cities and donor agencies.

## Post-Disaster Reconstruction Project: Sustained efforts impacting communities

CITYNET has stayed on the course in its bid to bring medium- and long-term relief to communities hit by the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. The project spanned CITYNET members in Indonesia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, helping local governments and citizens to rebuild not just lives but livelihoods. Continuing on this trajectory, in 2007, a community centre was inaugurated in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. This became the third such centre, after those in Galle, Sri Lanka, and Banda Aceh, Indonesia, that were reconstructed with support from CITYNET, Yokohama, and local partners. Gradually, activities under the Post-Disaster Reconstruction Project are being absorbed by the respective Clusters.

## AWAREE Project: Tangible results in participating cities

The three-year AWAREE (Awareness on Environmental Education in Asian Cities) Project ended in early 2007 with a training programme and public hearing held in Yokohama. An extremely successful partnership between the project cities – Hanoi, Vietnam, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia – CITYNET, Yokohama City, and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) sustained the Project. Experts from Yokohama made several visits to the two beneficiary cities, disseminating and demonstrating environmental education (EE) tools and strategies. The successful outcomes of this Project have been highly visible in the two Cities. Hanoi has integrated EE in all subjects in all of its schools and has developed EE infrastructure, such as Biotopes. Phnom Penh started with four EE pilot schools in 2005 which expanded to 145 in 2007. The City is using materials like storybooks created by students during the Project, and students are now segregating and recycling garbage in schools. Among a host of other achievements, both Cities have also benefited from inter-departmental and inter-Ministry partnerships within their own governments.

With the achievements of AWAREE as the backdrop, the Post-AWAREE Project on global warming is set to be launched in 2008.

# Priority Clusters: Redefining and Refining Focus

Starting in 2003, local governments and organisations within CITYNET have organised themselves into Priority Clusters based on their key concerns. Over the past few years, the system has been consolidated, bringing a strong, 'member-driven' focus to the Network. The 2008 Programme Plan, shaped and approved at the 23rd Executive Committee Meeting, also envisages activities based on this classification, allocating resources according to member concerns. On their part, Cluster members are now taking responsibility for the implementation of their Cluster's action plans.

In 2007, Clusters were reorganised, with members reviewing their Cluster membership and realigning it with their priorities. Each Cluster made progress on its action plan chalked out in 2006, and fed its implementation experiences into designing even more practical plans for 2008. With a major milestone ahead in the shape of the 6th General Council of CITYNET scheduled for Autumn 2009 in Yokohama, Clusters are planning to review their successes and identify areas for improvement. To keep members and partners updated on Clusters' activities, CITYNET launched a bi-annual publication, 'Clusters Update' – a compilation of all Cluster activity reports.

## Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Cluster

The key activity for the Cluster has been the setting up of the Joint Office on MDGs by CITYNET, UNMC, MuAN, and the CITYNET Nepal National Chapter, in Kathmandu, Nepal, in the Spring of 2007. The mandate of this Office is to promote MDGs-oriented local governments in South Asia. A handbook entitled, 'Local Authorities in the South and 8 Ways to Change the World,' was released to provide strategic approaches and case studies for cities to achieve the Targets. In March, CITYNET, MuAN, Kathmandu, and UN-HABITAT, came together to organise a training workshop on localising MDGs, where cities adopted the Kathmandu Plan of Action. A city-to-city project on MDGs was also launched which will see expertise and experience transferred from Calbayog, Philippines, and Kandy, Sri Lanka – with support from MaRGG, a CITYNET member NGO from Sri Lanka – to Bharatpur and Lalitpur, Nepal, and Sukabumi, Indonesia. As with every year, thousands of people in CITYNET member cities and organisations responded to UNMC's 'Stand Up' campaign to raise awareness about the MDGs and poverty reduction.

### Focus Areas:

**MDGs localisation and implementation, poverty reduction, good governance**



Joint Office inauguration in Kathmandu in March 2007.

## Infra Cluster

With Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as its lead city, the Cluster forged ahead with implementing its action plan in 2007. Activities of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC, or CIFAL Kuala Lumpur), especially on transport, have also been integrated in the Infra Cluster. In Summer 2007, Cluster members came together for a training programme on sustainable urban transport. Also, the annual Cluster meeting was held where, setting an example in Cluster leadership, Kuala Lumpur City agreed to host the Cluster Secretariat in the City Hall. It took over as Chair of the Cluster, with Chittagong Development Authority as the Vice-Chair, and a Committee was formed to oversee the implementation of programmes. Cluster activities include a C2C project between Mumbai and Seoul Development Institute on integrated urban transport system.

### Focus Areas:

**Urban transport, traffic management, land-use planning**



Participants at the Infra Cluster Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on June 2007.

## Information Communication Technology (ICT) Cluster

The Cluster has channelled its efforts through the CIFAL Shanghai training centre, operated in partnership with UNITAR, Shanghai City, CITYNET, and other partners. In March 2007, a training programme on e-Governance was organised at the Centre, attended, among others, by Cluster members. C2C cooperation projects arising out of this workshop are slated to be conducted during 2008. One of these will entail Kathmandu, supported by Kuala Lumpur and Muntinlupa, developing an e-licensing system for processing building permits. Another target activity under this Cluster is the second phase of development of the CITYNET portal [www.smart-cities.net](http://www.smart-cities.net) – an environmental webspace that matches cities' technology needs with private sector vendors.

### Focus Areas:

**Promotion of ICT-enabled municipal services, reduction of North-South digital divide**



Group session during a CIFAL Shanghai training on March 2007.





Garbage separation at a public school in Phnom Penh as part of the AWAREE Project.

## Enviro – Solid Waste Management (SWM) Cluster

**Focus Areas:**  
*SWM master plan and legal frameworks, waste segregation and recycling*

The Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) Project has been a key activity for this Cluster – where know-how from a Sri Lankan NGO member of CITYNET was passed on to Phnom Penh in an extension of the AWAREE Project. The success of the Project prompted more cities to join the Cluster, such as Dhaka, which sent a team to Phnom Penh to do a feasibility study. Dhaka is currently implementing the Clean Dhaka Master Plan (2005-2015), and this project will give it impetus in achieving its targets. The CITYNET Bangladesh National Chapter is expected to play a crucial role in Cluster activities.

## Enviro – Water and Sanitation Cluster

**Focus Areas:**  
*Efficient delivery of water and sanitation services, decentralised sewage treatment*

Under the Cluster's action plan, the Eco Tank – a non-electric sewage separation technology – was set to be transferred to Hue, Vietnam, from Bangkok. Exchanges took place on this project during 2006 & 2007, and study visits were conducted to pass on knowledge for several locations in Hue to install Eco Tanks. Hue is also planning to launch an environment-friendly boat to sensitise its floating boat communities to environmental issues. Cluster member Banda Aceh continued to draw on Yokohama's expertise in waterworks under the three-year project the two cities are engaged in, while the annual training programme on waterworks hosted by Yokohama saw participation from various cities.



Discussions on the implementation of the Eco Tank in Hue during the International Sanitation Seminar held in Makati in October 2007.

## Disaster Cluster

**Focus Areas:**  
*Post-tsunami reconstruction, disaster risk reduction*

CITYNET strengthened its advocacy on disaster risk reduction by being part of the newly-formed Global Platform on Urban Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) under the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The construction of a public school in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, planned as support to the region affected by the 2005 Earthquake, faced delays. An expert from CITYNET/Yokohama City visited Pakistan to oversee the construction and to also advise the City Hall of Islamabad on planning and design of its upgraded Fire Headquarters. At a meeting of all Cluster members held directly following the 23rd Session of the Executive Committee in Makati, the action plan for 2008 was formulated. It includes mainstreaming of and capacity-building on DRR, raising community awareness on disaster risks, and the compilation of best practices at the local level.



Architect Mr. Kazuo Hashimoto, Assistant Secretary-General of CITYNET, meeting the community to discuss the reconstruction of a public school in Pakistan in August 2007.

## Communicating the Cause

Archives of all newsletters and publications can be found online at [www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org)

There has been a heightened interest in CITYNET and its work in recent years and the members, partners, the media, and all friends of the Network were kept abreast of progress through various communication efforts. CITYNET also continued to be a clearinghouse of information on urban issues in the Region.

**Publications:** The essence of events and activities was captured in publications brought out directly following programme activities during 2007. Three key publications were the handbook on MDGs and the Clusters Update mentioned on Page 5, and the AWAREE Project Report: 2004-2007.

**CityVoice:** CITYNET's print newsletter was released three times during the year to offer news and views on CITYNET activities. It continued to highlight the uniqueness of CITYNET members, their visions, their plans, and their feedback on events.

**e-News:** The bi-monthly electronic newsletter, circulated around the world, carried timely updates on CITYNET activities, with an emphasis on Priority Clusters and National Chapters. It also continued its quest to provide relevant information to the urban community on non-CITYNET events and resources.

**CITYNET Club:** The Japanese newsletter of CITYNET, carrying news and information geared for Japanese members and the host City of the Secretariat, Yokohama, went out thrice in 2007, raising awareness about the Network.

**Website:** The CITYNET webportal, redesigned in 2006, has worked well in generating awareness and interest about CITYNET. It houses tools for members and visitors to find project partners based on their priorities.



CityVoice - August 2007 Issue



Baguio  
Balikpapan  
Banda Aceh  
Bandung  
Bangkok  
Bharatpur  
Biratnagar  
Birganj  
Busan  
Butwal  
Calbayog  
Changwon  
Chittagong  
Colombo  
Danang  
Dehiwala-Mt.Lavinia  
Dhaka  
Esfahan  
Gorontalo  
Guntur  
Hanoi  
Ho Chi Minh  
Hue  
Iloilo  
Incheon  
Indore  
Islamabad  
Kandy  
Kaohsiung  
Kathmandu  
Khulna  
Kuala Lumpur  
Lalitpur  
Landhi  
Makati  
Marikina  
Moratuwa  
Mumbai  
Muntinlupa  
Naga  
Nanchang  
Nanjing  
Negombo  
Palembang  
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Phnom Penh  
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San Fernando  
San Jose  
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Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte  
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Sukabumi  
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Taipei  
Tansen  
Tomohon  
Visakhapatnam  
Wuhan  
Yangon  
Yokohama  
Ancona  
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CAPS  
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CISRS  
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Freedom to Build  
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SDS  
SEVANATHA  
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TEI  
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