

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD

EDITOR

MEGAN CHOW

Program Officer, CityNet

CONTRIBUTORS

YOUNGMIN CHANG
Director of Programs, CityNet
JAIME PAULO MORA / DANBEE LEE
Senior Program Officers, CityNet
HUI QIAN / CHRIS DIGENNARO
Program Officers, CityNet

PUBLISHER

GEUN-HYEONG YIM CEO, CityNet

CONTACT US

CityNet Secretariat Programs Team
Seoul Global Center 10F
38 Jongno, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea
T. +82-2-723-0634
E. programs1@citynet-ap.org
W. www.citynet-ap.org



Park is the first public park in Bangkok, where citizens can enjoy outdoor leisure activities in the fresh air and shade.

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Foreword from the President City



Mayor Se-hoon Oh Mayor of Seoul President of CityNet

Warmest greetings from Seoul. As the President City of CityNet, it is my genuine pleasure to share with you the achievements of CityNet over the past year. Thank you, on behalf of the Network, for your support and engagement with CityNet in 2021.

CityNet is an association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Throughout its long history, it has always strived to look towards the future and help members take the initiative in becoming local, regional, and global leaders for the trend of sustainable development. Since its founding in 1987, CityNet has pursued cooperation among cities, who have been recognized as key actors in finding solutions to urban challenges, rather than among countries. CityNet believes in developing cities to be inclusive, peoplecentred, ecologically sustainable and sound, culturally vibrant, and globally connected.

With over 170 member cities, organizations, and companies, CityNet's mission to connect urban stakeholders and deliver tangible solutions for cities is being realized. With expanding partnerships into the EU and elsewhere, CityNet will continue to serve as a global platform for cooperation among cities and organizations to tackle urban challenges.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of CityNet. Seoul is proud to say that for the past nine years of this crucial organization's existence, we have been hosting the Secretariat, the core staff behind most of the workshops, activities, and events held by CityNet. We are proud of the work that the Secretariat has carried out on behalf of CityNet, and Seoul, as the President City, will continue to offer CityNet our steadfast support and engagement in 2022.

In the increasingly globalized world, one city alone cannot solve the social, economic, cultural, and environment problems that we face. Rather, the path forward lies in the path that we take together in cooperation. I believe that CityNet, as a network of cities, will play a vital role in connecting us together on common global challenges. I am greatly anticipating deeper cooperation with all our members in 2022 as we work together to create more sustainable cities.

Foreword from the Secretary General



Vijay Jagannathan Secretary General

The past year has truly spotlighted two of the greatest crises the modern world has been facing: the continued COVID-19 pandemic and the growing effects of climate change. The disruption effect of these two critical crises have exacerbated each other in ways that are increasingly difficult to recover from. My heart goes out to our members and partners who have been enduring these challenges over the past years.

As we begin to move into a post-pandemic recovery stage, our attention must be turned towards the escalating dangers presented by climate change. 2021 has brought to light the fact that we, as individuals and as parts of a common society, must tackle climate change in two ways: mitigation and adaptation.

Through our workshops and programmes, CityNet has been helping members prepare for a net-zero transition by focusing on climate mitigation actions, such as improving energy efficiency, implementing green transportation, and reducing carbon emissions. The UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow marked a key turning point, with leaders recognizing for the first time that climate mitigation must begin at the city level. City level leaders are the ones who must act first with initiatives such as switching from fossil fuels to electric cars.

The time to act is now, and our communities are beginning to realize this. Reducing carbon emissions is of course an important step in moving towards a

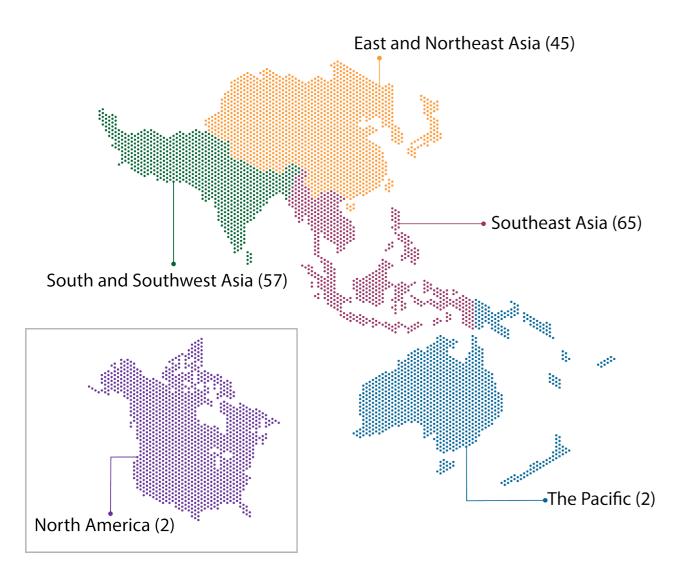
net-zero transition and mitigating climate change effects. But more importantly, we need to show people that climate actions are beneficial not only for the environment, but also for society. Citizens benefit from environmentally friendly cities - both through the economy and in their own health.

The response to COVID-19 showcased the strength of our cities. Together, we demonstrated that we could build resilience within our communities in response to disasters. Climate change is contributing to the increasing frequency of natural disasters that threaten to disrupt our communities. In the same way as COVID-19, by coming together and acting, cities can combat and mitigate the effects of climate change.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of CityNet, and I believe that over the past 35 years, thanks to our members, as a network, we have truly been able to contribute in a significant way to the journey of sustainable development. Despite the challenges we will continue to face in the upcoming year, CityNet is committed to sharing best practices and working together with our members to take concrete actions.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Seoul Metropolitan Government, the generous hosts of the CityNet Secretariat. Most of all, my wholehearted appreciation goes out to all our members and partners, whose support and contributions have been invaluable to CityNet's growth as a network.

About CityNet



171 MEMBERS

110 FULL MEMBERS | 57 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS | 4 CORPORATE MEMBERS

CityNet is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP, and UN-Habitat, the network of cities has grown to include over 170 municipalities, NGOs, research centres, and private companies.

We connect actors, exchange knowledge, and build commitment to establish more sustainable and resilient cities. Through capacity building, city-to-city cooperation, and tangible projects, we help our members respond to climate change, disaster, rising infrastructure demands, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member Overview

Full Members

Associate Members



East & Northeast Asia

Busan · Erdenet · Guro-gu · Gwangjin-gu · Incheon · Jeju · Jongno-gu · Jungnang-gu · Kaohsiung · Matsuyama · Nanchang · Nanjing · Seodaemun-gu·Seongdong-gu· Seoul · Shanghai · Songpa-gu · Suwon · Taichung · Taipei · Taoyuan · Ulaanbaatar · Wuhan · Yokohama

Asian Bridge · Climate Campaign · Healthy City Network of Mongolia · IGES · ICDI · ISUS UOS · KDDI Foundation · MCUD · Plus Arts · Seoul · Metro · SH Corporation · Seoul MC · SI.TUJ.WRI.YOKE.YCU



South & Southwest Asia

Barisal · Bharatpur · Bheemdatta · Biratnagar · Birgunj · Butwal · Colombo · Dehiwala -Mt. Lavinia · Dhaka North · Dhaka South · Dhangadhi · Dharan · Galle · Godawari · Hetauda · Islamabad (Capital Development Authority) · ${\sf Kandy} \cdot {\sf Kathmandu} \cdot {\sf Khulna} \cdot {\sf Lalitpur} \cdot {\sf Mahalaxmi} \cdot$ Moratuwa · Mumbai · Narayanganj · Negombo · Nepalgun · Pokhara · Rajshahi · Siddharthanagar · Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte · Sylhet · Tansen · Tehran · Thimphu

ASAG · AIILSG · CUS · Fire Service & Civil Defence · Galle Development Foundation · HUDCO · HELP-O · INSEC · Lekhnath Water Supply · Lumanti · MESN · Mumbai First · MAB · MUAN Nepal · MSSS·NSET·NAST·OPP Institutions· PIEDAR · RAJUK · SEVANATHA · SPARC · YUVA

AMC · ACHR · ACVN · DMMMSU ·

Freedom to Build · Gerakan Ciliwung

Bersih · JBLFMU · LCP · LGA · MUKA ·

NMT · Think City · Tirtanadi · URDI



Southeast Asia

Baguio · Balanga · Balikpapan · Banda Aceh · Bandung · Bangkok · Banjar · Banjarbaru · Bogor · Calapan · Cauayan · Da Nang · Denpasar · Hai Phong · Hanoi · Ho Chi Minh · Hue · Iloilo City · Iriga · Jakarta · Jambi · Kuala Lumpur · Legazpi · Makassar · Makati · Mandaue · Marikina · Masbate · Muntinlupa · Naga · Palembang · Pangkal Pinang · Penang · Phnom Penh · Puerto Princesa ·

Putrajaya · Quezon · San Fernando · San Juan · Santa Rosa · Seberang Pera · Semarang · Sidoarjo Regency · Sorsogon · Subang Jaya · Sukabumi Municipality · Surabaya · Tam Ky·Tarakan·Tasikmalaya·Tuguegarao



The Pacific

Full Members Suva

Associate Members Observatory PASCAL



North America

Associate Members CAPI UVic · ITDP

Corporate Members











Thematic Areas

As part of the network, CityNet members can join up to two thematic programme areas, or clusters. Programme activities are envisioned, designed, and implemented with these member-driven clusters in mind, allowing for a sharp focus on members' needs. The leads and co-leads of each cluster take a main role in the planning, initiation, and implementation of the activities for each cluster.



CLIMATE CHANGE LEAD : Jakarta CO-LEAD : HELP-O



DISASTER LEAD : Yokohama CO-LEAD : Makati



INFRASTRUCTURE LEAD : Seoul CO-LEAD : Kuala Lumpur

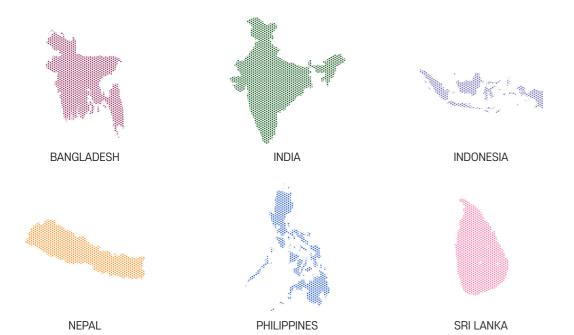


SDGS LEAD : Barisal

CO-LEAD: AIILSG, CUS, HUDCO, LCP

National Chapters

National Chapters serve as CityNet's regional representation in countries. Through National Chapters, members can address salient issues for their own countries with a unique local understanding, enhancing improved coordination within the country. National Chapters provide non-members with an opportunity to experience CityNet's services, even if they may not qualify for full CityNet membership. CityNet currently has six National Chapters.





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The 40th Executive Committee Meeting



Due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, the 40th CityNet Executive Committee Meeting was held online for 2021. The President, President Emeritus, two Vice President Cities, and members of the Executive Committee gathered for the annual event. In this year's meeting, the Executive Committee approved a new associate member to join CityNet.







New Members

International School of Urban Sciences

The International School of Urban Sciences at the University of Seoul offers postgraduate degree programmes in sustainable urban development and global construction, providing unique combinations of practice and theory. ISUS's International Urban Development Program (IUDP) is dedicated to mid-career government officials from partner cities and countries.



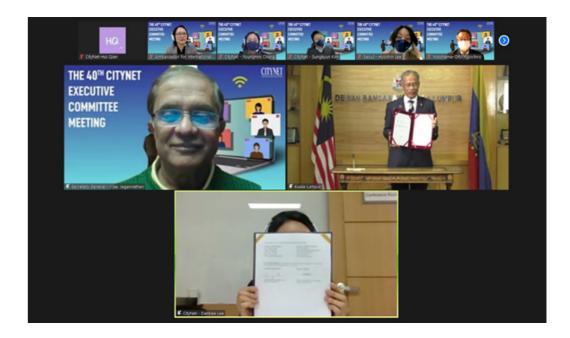
The Upcoming 9th CityNet Congress

The CityNet Congress is the quadrennial event of CityNet, with an average of 300 attendees from members, partner organizations, and domestic stakeholders. CityNet members gather at Congress to vote on important institutional matters, like the election of the Executive Committee members, the Secretary General, and the Cluster Leads. Hosting Congress-exclusive events like the General Council and Mayor's Forum, the 9th CityNet Congress will also mark the last session of the current Executive Committee and the first session of the next Executive Committee.





During the 40th Executive Committee Meeting, it was confirmed that the 9th CityNet Congress would be hosted by Kuala Lumpur from 20-23 September 2022 under the theme "City For All: Activating Access for Urban Growth," reflecting the dire need to focus on sustainable urban development that includes the most vulnerable populations.



During the 40th Executive Committee Meeting, the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Haji Mahadi Che Ngah, and Secretary General of CityNet, Vijay Jagannathan, held a virtual MOU signing ceremony.



The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, co-developed by CityNet, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), is an open-access database on various SDG policies and implementations at a local level.

The Platform aims not only to share best practices and foster knowledge sharing, but also to connect urban stakeholders and cities together. With more than 400 cases, the Platform allows cities to share implementation strategies, challenges, and key success factors to replicate effective, innovative initiatives in a local context.



The Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices

Cities pursuing sustainable development face a common challenge of implementing best practices into their city. Best practices from one city are not always applicable to another, and it can be difficult to identify which practices are best suited to each individual city.

The Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices was developed as a prefeasibility screening tool that aims to assess if best practices and projects from one city can be localized and implemented into another city. Based on a self-assessment of five key dimensions, cities will be able to assess whether the target practice is suitable to be adopted and localized, considering their specific context.



The SDG Navigator

The SDG Navigator is a self-assessment tool designed to facilitate local assessments of ongoing efforts to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the city level. It was created to help cities evaluate their current performance on the implementation of the SDGs, based on official UN SDG targets. The SDG Navigator helps brings targets originally designed for the national level down to the city level.





National Workshops

This year, in a targeted effort to address unique local needs of member cities, CityNet, in partnership with the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, hosted a series of national workshops to address the localized needs of CityNet members. This approach lent value to the National Chapters, some of whom hosted their National Workshops individually, with the support of the Secretariat. All of these workshops utilized either the Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices or the SDG Navigator.

MONGOLIA

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In cooperation with Healthy City Network of Mongolia, Mongolian cities learned about Localization of Good Practices and Evaluation of City Waste Management Policies & Projects in September. Waste management is a particularly salient topic for developing and developed cities, especially in cities with rapid urbanization. The workshop served as the platform for domestic and international urban stakeholders to discuss effective actions to improve local waste management policies.

INDONESIA

The Localization of Inclusive Resilience and Urban Disaster Risk Management Practices Workshop targeted Indonesia, aiming to improve the capacity of local government officials by equipping them with a better understanding of inclusive resilience and knowledge about the local government's role to deliver inclusive DRM interventions. Disasters have a disproportionate effect on the vulnerable, so local authorities need to implement inclusive DRM policies. The gap between planned policies and real actions is an issue that needs to be addressed and reduced.





NEPAL

The National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), the host of National Chapter Nepal, spearheaded organization for the National Workshop in Nepal, focusing primarily on the **Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices** to test localization potential for domestic cases.

CHINA

In partnership with ArchiCity, Chinese cities got the opportunity to learn about Localization of Green Urban Transition and Sustainable Integration of ICT Practices through a two-day workshop that also showcased the Toolkit. This workshop highlighted that one of the keys to becoming a sustainable society is transforming cities to be greener.

CITYNET



International Urban and Regional Cooperation

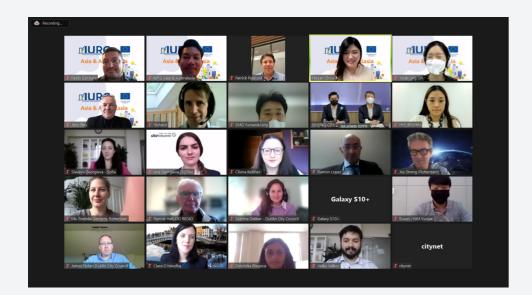
The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme is the second phase of the EU International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme, which took place from 2016-2020. The programme covers the EU and 4 geographical areas for a total of 138 cities and 40 regions.

CityNet coordinates activities in the Republic of Korea, where three cities - Seoul, Busan, and Sejong - have partnered with three EU cities - Dublin, Rotterdam, and Sofia - to establish city-to-city partnerships for sustainable urban development.

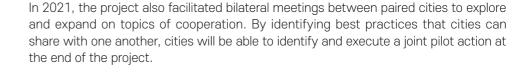
The programme includes two approaches: bilateral partnerships and thematic clusters. On one hand, cities work together in bilateral partnerships that can expand outwards to other cities from the same country on topics that interest them as a pair. On the other hand, thematic clusters provide an opportunity for cities to connect with other like-minded cities across the Asia & Australasia region on topics of common interest.



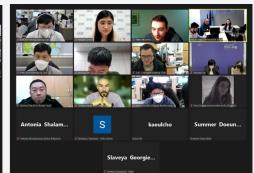




The EU-Korea cooperation for IURC was officially launched with the EU-Korea Kick-Off Meeting. Representatives from the EU Delegation to Korea, DG REGIO, Busan, Sejong, Seoul, Dublin, Rotterdam, Sofia, and the IURC project team participated in this event. Each city presented its initiatives and projects to showcase what potential areas of cooperation they can work on together over the next two years of the project.







As part of the thematic clusters approach, CityNet organized a webinar on addressing climate change effects in cities, particularly on the mitigation of urban heat islands and prevention of flooding after heavy rainfall. It was a resounding success, gathering over 80 representatives from IURC pilot cities. Ten speakers from nine pilot cities-Bologna-Imola, Busan, Dublin, Obuse, Rotterdam, Sejong, Seoul, Surat, Vitoria-Gasteiz-shared their cities' best practices to address the two topics.







ICT for Disaster Risk Management

COVID-19 and its health ramifications have not been the only crisis local authorities have had to face in recent times. In 2020 alone, there were over two thousand disasters to hit Indonesia, a country prone to and heavily impacted by disasters. In the face of increasingly frequent natural disasters in their country, CityNet held a 5-day workshop on ICT for Disaster Risk Management for Indonesian member cities.

In total, 18 government officials from 5 cities (Banda Aceh, Bandung, Banjarbaru, Denpasar, Jakarta) took part in the training, equipping local government officials with the essential knowledge and skills to understand the overall framework of disaster risk management and the practical use of ICTs in disaster mitigation and preventions, preparedness, response, and recovery at the local level.

The workshop was held in partnership with UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Center for Information Communication Technology (APCICT), under the leadership of Director Ko Kiyoung, and featured content from APCICT's ICT for Disaster Risk Management module that was adapted for the Indonesian context.



CITYNET

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January - May



Disaster Risk Reduction Management in COVID-19

CityNet Nepal National Chapter's webinar on local COVID-19 responses and inclusive, participatory resilience building highlighted that adaptation and mutual support is pivotal to prepare and respond effectively to COVID-19.



Smart City Development in Banda Aceh and Other Indonesian Cities

Invited by Bandung Institute of Technology, CityNet shared about the Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices, a tool to help cities identify and localize solutions to tackle challenges and opportunities for smart city development in Banda Aceh and other Indonesian cities.

WITH Bandung Institute of Technology



Smart Waste Management: Localization of Urban Practices

To review the Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices, experts from CityNet members first shared their opinions on the Toolkit and then tested the Toolkit after hearing presentations on smart waste management from Santa Rosa and Seoul.



Sustainable City Forum

The Sustainable City Forum, part of the Smart City Summit & Expo, focused on the topic of Sustainable Recovery, particularly green transition, renewable energy, eco-mobility, and eco-logistics. Secretary General Vijay Jagannathan contributed to the opening remarks of the forum.

January

March

February



Consultation on ICT for DRM

CityNet gathered local experts from cities in the Asia-Pacific to review the APCICT Module on ICT for DRM to prepare for an upcoming workshop. Participants offered thoughts and suggestions relevant to the adaptation of the module for city-level concerns.

ITH UNESCAP APCICT

New Normal After Pandemie



Changing Face of Urban Tourism Post COVID-19: Asian Experience

The pandemic has severely affected the tourism industry, hitting cities' economic lifelines. This webinar helped identify the challenges cities face as they prepare to open borders given the ongoing vaccinations, while minimizing health risks.



Online Workshop on Localization of Urban Eco-Solutions

For the second review of the Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices, city experts gathered to learn about urban eco-solutions. By evaluating these cases with the Toolkit, participants assessed the feasibility of these best practices as solutions for their cities.

WITH Mumbai First

WITH Taoy

May

May - July



Training on Housing Policy: Learning from Seoul Metropolitan Government

CityNet member cities across Asia-Pacific took part in the online training program on housing policy from SMG. The training was an opportunity for participants to develop housing policy tackling housing issues stemming from rapid urbanization.



IURC Asia & Australasia Information Event

The IURC Asia & Australasia project team organised a webinar to provide information for European cities. The event highlighted how diverse and dynamic the Asian and Australasian regions are, represented by the different regional team members.



Thematic Webinar: **New Green Possibilities**

CITYNET

IURC Asia & Australasia kickstarted their thematic webinar series with an international forum on new green possibilities. The "Policy Talk" featured speakers from Hamburg, Rome, Seoul, and Bangkok, who shared on their cities' green policies.

ICT for SDGs

CityNet was invited to deliver a lecture to government official students at KDI (Korea Development Institute) School of Public Policy and Management on ICTs and the SDGs, and the role of technology in implementing the SDGs, especially at the local level.

May

June



Post-Pandemic Urban Recovery - Smart Health Solutions - Asian Perspective

This second webinar with Mumbai First focused on post pandemic urban recovery and sustainability, especially regarding vaccination challenges and innovations.



World Cities Summit

CityNet served as an event partner for World Cities Summit 2021. The summit convened delegates to discuss resilient, inclusive cities, highlighting the importance of cities investing in a recovery that does not leave people behind.



Reshaping the Urban Landscape: Advancing Green Solutions in the **Disrupted World**

More than 40 city experts and authorities from the Asia-Pacific region gathered together to explore urban sustainability trends, exchange city practices, and generate insights on how to develop and adopt green and digital solutions for urban challenges in the post-pandemic recovery.



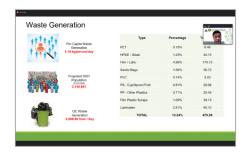
Localizing the 2030 Agenda Workshop

CityNet introduced the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform and its tools at the jointly implemented UNESCAP/UN-Habitat project workshops on "Localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through Sustainable Urban Resource Management" for Ulaanbaatar and Nasinu.

July

25

July - December



Plastic Waste Management

After the development of the National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management (NAPPWM) by the Ministry of Environment of Sri Lanka, a national workshop was held where CityNet presented on the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform.

WITH HELP-O



Webinar on Climate Finance

This webinar on post-pandemic urban sustainability issues discussed climate finance, focusing on mobilizing resources for climate action. City experts emphasized that as cities account for 70% of global emissions, it is imperative that they can access funding to implement sustainable climate actions.

July



City-to-City Technical Exchange Bicycle Learning Programme

CityNet organized a city-to-city learning exchange on improving bicycle programmes for Kuala Lumpur city officials, to help develop its bicycle programme with a pedestrian and cyclist-centred approach. WITH International Science Coun

COVID-19 IMPACT ON PERLAC ILLALYE

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International Conference-Cities under COVID-19: A Systems Perspective

As part of the International Science Council's global science programme on Urban Health and Wellbeing (UHWB), CityNet had the opportunity to share about research conducted by the Secretariat about COVID-19 Impact Assessment & Pandemic Preparedness.

October

September



International Webinar on Pandemic Response in Indo-Pacific Airport Cities

CityNet and Taoyuan City hosted a webinar together to share how airport cities, as international gateways to their countries, have managed the pandemic despite the economic impact and the increased mobility inherent to airport cities.



International Urban Resilience Forum

Seoul Metropolitan Government held the third International Urban Resilience Forum, where speakers from CityNet and CityNet cities participated in the forum as moderators, panelists, and speakers.

November



International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

The International Forum on Low Carbon Cities, hosted by UNESCAP East and Northeast Asia and Incheon, was held in November. CityNet shared about how CityNet is promoting inter-city cooperation projects on sustainable urbanism and that cities are at the forefront of climate change adaptation, mitigation and rapid urbanization.

December



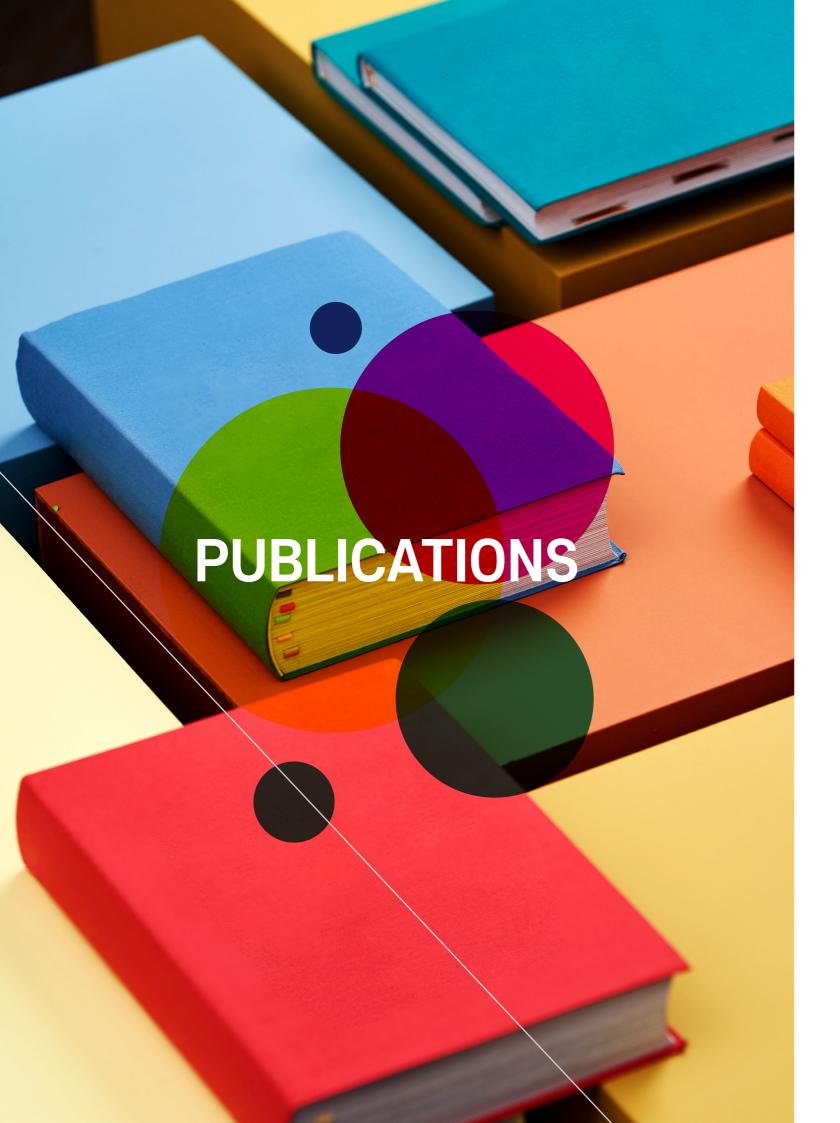
Urban Resilience and Low Income Housing

CityNet held an Urban Resilience
Master Class on Low Income Housing
to shed light on how to prevent the
further deterioration of public housing.
Participants learned about the many
issues of low-income public housing and
how they affect their sustainability.

with lauyua

WITH SMG







Monthly Newsletter

CityNet newsletters are distributed once a month, and offer information on CityNet announcements and network news. It serves as one of the best resources for our members, partners, and interested individuals to always stay up to date on upcoming events and activities. The HTML archive of monthly newsletters is available on our website, at https://citynet-ap.org/news/monthly-newsletter/.





2020 Annual Report

CityNet publishes a report annually that covers the key events, programmes, and projects implemented by the Secretariat throughout the previous year. The 2020 Annual Report captures capacity building events, workshops, training programmes, and other projects and events that CityNet participated in during 2020. Annual reports are available at https://citynet-ap.org/publications/annual-report/.



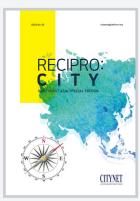


CityNet Leaflet

CityNet updated its leaflet and added additional languages to better promote CityNet as an organization. The leaflet is available in seven languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia, Bangla, and Nepali. It can be found on the website, at https://citynet-ap.org/20-2/whowe-are/



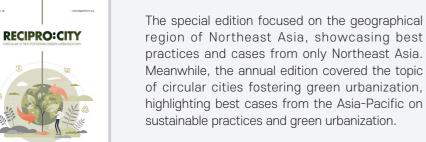




⊲ RECIPRO:CITY Issue No. 5, Northeast Asia Special Edition

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform's annual publication, RECIPRO:CITY, is designed to support all readers in sharing best practices on urban policies. Since its inception, RECIPRO:CITY has covered major topics, such as: achievement of SDGs, transportation policies, smart city development, and smart city implementation. In 2021, the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform published two editions of RECIPRO:CITY: a special edition and the annual edition.







⊲ RECIPRO:CITY Issue No. 6





Renewing the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform was a strategic move to both update the contents and showcase the new tools developed for the Platform, the Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices and the SDG Navigator. The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform's leaflet is available in six languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia, and Bangla. They are available for download on the website at http://www.urbansdgplatform.org/about/intro.msc.



Join Our Network

CityNet strives to meet the changing needs of members, and most importantly, to listen to our members so we can successfully and continually implement relevant programmes and activities.

Eligibility Criteria

Full Members

Local authorities in the Asia-Pacific region, with a minimum of 100,000 in its borders

Associate Members

Local authorities outside of the Asia-Pacific region, national-level organizations, development authorities, research/training/academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations

Corporate Members Private corporations

Membership Fee

Upon approval by the CityNet Executive Committee, the membership fee will be incurred from the following year.

The annual membership size is calculated based on the population of the city and GDP per capita of its country.

For more information, contact the Secretariat at info@citynet-ap.org, or visit our website at www.citynet-ap.org.



A tree tunnel along the train from Wong Wian Yi Station in Bangkok to Maha Chai Station in Samut Sakhon.



CITYNET SECRETARIAT

Seoul Global Center 10F, 38 Jongno, Jongno-gu, Seoul, South Korea T. +82-2-723-0634 E. programs1@citynet-ap.org W. www.citynet-ap.org



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