

CityVoices

An isometric illustration of a vibrant city park scene. The background is a solid bright yellow. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous white, three-dimensional geometric shapes, primarily rectangular blocks and long planks, some of which have green tops. These shapes are arranged in a way that suggests they are building blocks for a city. Various stylized human figures are engaged in different activities: a person on a yellow bicycle in the upper left, a person walking on a path, a person sitting on a bench, a person standing near a soccer field, and a person sitting on a bench. There are also stylized green trees of different sizes, a blue pond in the upper right, a soccer field with a goal in the lower right, and a blue water fountain. The overall style is modern and playful, emphasizing urban planning and community.

CITYNET'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OUR CITY, OUR FUTURE

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CityVoices

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CityNet's 30th Anniversary

Our City, Our Future:
Sharing Local Solutions for Sustainable
Development

Welcome Message from the Secretary General



Over the past 30 years, CityNet has been (working) towards a more sustainable and resilient Asia Pacific, growing from just 27 members to 136 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers today, with the steady support of the cities of Yokohama and Seoul, UNESCAP, UNDP, UN-HABITAT. Our organization, which was established in 1987, with a mission to promote partnership across the Asia Pacific region particularly through city-to-city knowledge sharing aimed at improving social, environmental and economic sustainability of our cities.

With several significant global events, such as the adoption of the SDGs, the Paris Climate Accord and Habitat 3, cities have become a significant focus of global development effort, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region where rapid urbanization is currently taking place. Our mayors and city officials face the daunting challenge of bridging huge infrastructure and housing gaps while also tackling problems of congestion, poverty and environmental degradation. Our model of providing a platform for peer-to-peer learning has focused on four areas in particular: Climate Change, Infrastructure Development, Disaster Management, and SDGs, with Seoul and Yokohama providing members many insights on how measurable, sustained outcomes were achieved through local leadership and adoption of best practice urban planning approaches.

This year is truly special for us, as we are celebrating CityNet's 30th anniversary, and provides us an opportunity to reflect on our past performance as a network, and more importantly look forward to how we can make a significant impact to the ever-growing urban challenges our members face. The greatest asset our cities face is the 'demographic dividend' in the form of a young and active work force, and the challenge is to discover ways of improving job prospects, enlarge the pool of affordable housing, improve liveability through reduced traffic congestion, air, water and land pollution. Achieving these outcomes requires good governance with accountability of local governments to their citizens.

We are deeply grateful to the Colombo Municipal Council for hosting the 2017 CityNet Congress. Colombo is an appropriate venue because of its impressive urban development that includes specific actions to engage citizens in governance, such as the annual participatory budgeting exercises. Colombo is also the home to many renowned civil society organizations, and a very dynamic labour force that is eager and willing to contribute to the country's economic development. Moreover, the Government of Sri Lanka has embarked on an ambitious effort to implement a metropolitan urban development strategy covering the entire megalopolis that includes Colombo Municipal Council and several other municipalities in the Western Province of the country. I am sure a lot of peer-to-peer learning will take place at the Congress.

Let me take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all members and partners who have never stopped in showing their steadfast support to us. Together we can do more, and I invite you to join us in growing and developing together.

An Interview with the Mayor of Seoul: Park Won-soon

Seoul Metropolitan Government joined CityNet in 1989 and has since been playing an active role in supporting the network to achieve urban sustainability. Their role has become even more critical since it took the position of President City in 2013 and hosted the CityNet Secretariat. Mayor Park Won-soon of Seoul shares his vision on how to further strengthen the network and create tangible impacts.



(Q)

Will you share with us what the role of CityNet is?

The world is experiencing rapid urbanization. Urbanization has brought about an abundance of wealth, but it has also brought about many side effects as well, such as economic polarization, poverty, environment, energy depletion, lack of housing and jobs, increase of crimes, traffic congestion and much more. Nevertheless, I believe that if we can go beyond national borders and urban boundaries, and pursue collaboration and innovation, there's no problem that we cannot solve.

With that said, CityNet has long served as an agent of collaboration and innovation, and has long been the symbol of the future of the Asia-Pacific region. Since being founded in 1987 with the support of UN ESCAP, UNDP and UN-Habitat, CityNet has always coordinated the opinions of member cities and has suggested political solutions to the urban challenges of the region.

(Q)

What role has Seoul played for CityNet and its members as the President City?

Seoul joined CityNet in 1989. It became a member of the Executive Committee in 1994. And since then, it has been committed to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. After becoming the president city in 2013, it is actively supporting the secretariat and is striving to help its member cities address various urban challenges.

Seoul has achieved an unprecedented rate of growth and development over the years, but it has also experienced the negative effects of rapid growth as well. So Seoul has accumulated many best practices and solutions to various urban challenges. It is our position to serve as a role model to cities in developing countries. I'm certain that if we can facilitate more sharing of experiences and best practices among member cities, we can make the world a better place to live for the citizens.

(Q)

What have been the main role of CityNet over the past 30 years as a network organization of local governments?

CityNet plays a key role not only as a network for sharing best practices in sustainable development, but also to utilize its knowledge to support its members in developing tangible results by first building the capability of the members, and then focusing on the implementation of projects with the support of multi-stakeholders that can produce a visible impact on the member cities. CityNet does this by becoming more than just a network but a family with longstanding history and tradition of strong commitment over the past thirty years to helping its members become better cities.

(Q)

What hopes do you have for CityNet as it celebrates its 30th anniversary?

As the president city and proud host of CityNet, I would like to congratulate CityNet for its 30 years of commitment to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. My hope is that CityNet, with the active support of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and together with the members of CityNet, can continue to help create more sustainable cities not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also around the world.

A Letter to CityNet Friends from the First Secretary General of CityNet



My Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have had the great privilege and honour to serve as Secretary-General of CityNet from 1991 to 2009.

Even before the Proclamation of the CityNet Charter in 1989, I was already very much involved in the establishment and formation of CityNet. My own involvement began at The First Regional Congress of Local Authorities for the Development of Human Settlements in Asia and Pacific “The Yokohama Congress (YLAP)” held in Yokohama in 1982 where the idea to explore the establishment of a strong association of local authorities was mooted. I represented the Municipal Council of Penang during this Congress in my capacity as Municipal Secretary. The Yokohama Declaration gave a mandate to UNESCAP to create a system of cooperation amongst cities of the Asia-Pacific Region for building the capacity of cities. While holding the position of Municipal Secretary, subsequently, at the 2nd Congress of Local Authorities for the Development of Human Settlements held in Nagoya, Japan, in 1987, the establishment of CityNet was formalized with 26 Cities becoming Members.

Later in 1989, the CityNet Charter was adopted during the Shanghai Congress and I was one of the signatories to the Charter. The Office Bearers (Members of the Executive Council) were elected at the Congress and ESCAP was mandated to act as the Secretariat. An extraordinary Congress was held in Kuala Lumpur and Penang in 1991 and the First Secretary General and Auditor of CityNet were elected. It was at this Congress that I was elected as the First Secretary General of CityNet.

Achievements

Over the 19 years that I was the Secretary General of CityNet, the Network was providing the framework of creating people friendly cities through several of its flagship activities. It had become the leading Network not only in the Asia Pacific region but globally to bring together local governments and other stakeholders to work together towards enabling local governments to increase their capacity to provide responsive service

delivery and to enhance their ability to attain greater accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency.

CityNet played an active role as an advocate of local governments and helped their voices to be heard through the vehicle of international organisations such as United Nations and its various component agencies.

It also assumed the new strategic role of bringing the attention of national governments and international organisations on the role of local government in the fight against HIV/AIDS and food security in cities. On the international and regional scene, CityNet fostered South-South, North-South and triangulation of South-North-South cooperation i.e. City-to-City Cooperation.

CITYNET'S GOALS

From the establishment of CityNet in 1987, CityNet goals have expanded that include:

- (1) Strengthen multilateral cooperation by promoting greater cooperation on South-South, North-South and South-North-South triangulation amongst cities.
- (2) Strive to become a self-sufficient organization both institutionally and financially with a strong core of full time professional human resource in order to expand and improve the quality of conducting activities for and of providing service to members and other stakeholders in the arena of local government.
- (3) Enhance and accelerate the on-going decentralization programme of the Network by the dispersal and decentralization of programmes and activities both geographically and on thematic focus.
- (4) Establish National Chapters in countries with large number of CityNet Members in the Asia-Pacific area.
- (5) Forged the expansion of cooperation activities and programmes with support organisations and bilateral and multilateral partners and donors.
- (6) Expand and further developed information technology services to members and became a centre for information.
- (7) Expand membership to private corporations and individuals to enhance financial stability and human, financial resource mobilization.
- (8) Establish a CityNet Foundation as part of its efforts to become a self-reliant organization.
- (9) Develop suitable strategies to promote membership to cities within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region and in particular amongst cities in the European Union countries and foremost amongst progressive and developed cities.

Strategies and Action Plan

As the main activity centred on capacity building of local governments in order to enable them to better provide services to their constituents, they may play their role as agents and/or facilitators of change through training programmes.

The programmes and activities focused more precisely on civic society participation with the marked trends towards democratization. New modalities of activities such as pilot projects, team consultation, cluster activities, staff exchange programmes and innovation in financial resource mobilization, and the development of institutional capacity and human resource were actively pursued to reduce CityNet's dependency on the narrow revenue based on donor reliance in order to better plan activities and to meet members' expectations.

Networking was the major activity, and one of the reasons that members joined CityNet was maximized through various strategies such as encouraging the formation of National Chapters and Sister City arrangements and the dissemination of information through a comprehensive website. Also facilitating networking between cities and NGO's, private companies, national governments and international organisations was actively undertaken. The quality of the CityNet website towards becoming a repository of useful information so that members could link up with the Databank of CityNet and obtain access and use inter-municipality information networks was actively pursued.

CityNet continued to initiate dialogue amongst various stakeholders including women's groups in order to promote good urban governance. Strategies for CityNet to become financially self-reliant were put in place. The Trust Fund's was established in 2004 to help receive contributions from donors outside Japan. Also marketing strategies for attracting private companies were planned which were put into place after the amendment to the legal framework (Charter) was approved by the General Council held in 2005.

At the same General Congress the number of Executive Committee Members was increased from 7 to 9. An Election Committee for conducting elections was also established at the same General Congress in 2005. The practice of assisting members to access funds and other resources whether from bilateral or multilateral donor organisations was continued and subsisting strategies to do this were fine-tuned. Cooperation with UN Agencies and other international organisations were enhanced in order to better serve as a platform for multilateral cooperation. Also steps were taken to advance involvement in international initiatives to promote City to City Cooperation and the implementation of MDG's.

Members were encouraged to provide contribution over and above normal annual fees. Members were also motivated to pay their dues on time and defaulting members assisted through bad times such as an economic downturn and processes to enable this were introduced by making provision in the CityNet Charter through legislative amendments. To enhance effectiveness of operations sub-regional nodes and centres were set up within the CityNet framework and assistance of specialized organisations was sought to provide inputs into programme planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring such activities. Persons and institutions to promote membership, identify donors, determine needs of members and to source for partners for cooperation in carrying out the objectives of the Network were designated.





ACHIEVEMENTS

Amongst many other achievements there are some worthy of special mention such as:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Transfer of the Secretariat of CityNet from UNESCAP to the City of Yokohama (1992) | (i) CityNet received the UN HABITAT Scroll of Honour in facilitating C2C Cooperation and Networking amongst Local Governments and Urban Stakeholders (2002) |
| (b) CityNet obtained ECOSOC Consultation Status from United Nation. | (j) Carried out the First Training Programme on Disaster Mitigation for Asian Cities with support of JICA (2004) |
| (c) Formation of the Priority Cluster System (2003) | (k) Carried out a Rapid Response Short and Medium Term Relief Project for Sri Lanka and Indonesia (2005) for relief services and provision of equipment as a consequence of the Tsunami Disaster. |
| (d) CityNet formed a Partnership with the LIFE / UNDP Project on Waste Water Management | (l) CityNet entered into an agreement with Eurocities for Cooperation, Lyon (2007) |
| (e) CityNet became a Member of the World Assembly of Cities and Local Governments (1996). | (m) Launched the Asian Sanitation Data Book compiled in partnership with ADB, UNHABITAT and Veolia Environment (2009). |
| (f) Launched the Staff One Year Secondment Programme amongst CityNet Members (1996). | |
| (g) Introduced Guidelines for Transfer of Best Practices (1998) | |
| (h) Establishment of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) in 2003. A Joint Initiative between CityNet, United Nations for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNDP, Veolia Environment and the City of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. | |

There are some of my recollections and memories of my involvement with CityNet particularly the 19 years I was the Secretary General.

The greatest controversy I experienced during my tenure as Secretary General was the withdrawal of CityNet Membership by all the Chinese Cities. I was given the task of acting as a mediator in order to bring the Chinese Cities back into the CityNet Family. I sent many communications and made many visits to the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand through the auspices of UNESCAP with the view to bring about a reconciliation but the Chinese Authorities would not relent unless the Taiwanese Cities membership was revoked.

Their point was that the Taiwanese Cities were not cities of a national entity which was a member of the UN and thus, under the provisions of the CityNet Charter they were not eligible to be admitted as CityNet Members. CityNet Secretariat and the City of Yokohama continued approaches to bring about a reconciliation but without success. Despite all my personal efforts as a citizen of Malaysia, a friendly country of The People's Republic of China, the Chinese authorities sympathized with me but that was not good enough for them to accede to my appeal to rejoin CityNet. Otherwise my tenure of CityNet was not turbulent.

However I would very much like to see the return to the fold of CityNet of the Chinese Cities whose Membership of CityNet would make CityNet a much stronger and more formidable institution. During my various terms as Secretary General of CityNet I had the great privilege to attend meetings of UNESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand and read a statement on CityNets activities at UNESCAP's Sessions. I also made several visits to the United Nation Meetings to attend UN HABITAT organized conferences. Also had the opportunity of meeting leaders of governments, mayors, provincial governors and citizens of most cities in the

course of my work to various countries and cities. I developed a lasting friendship with H.E. J.J. Mar Binay, former Mayor of Makati City, Philippines and the late Mr Henry Chabert, who was a Member of the French Assembly (Parliament), Member of the European Parliament and Councillor of Lyon. Both of them have made an indelible impact on my life and I have really been fortunate to have known such formidable people.

Lastly, my wishes for CityNet are that it continues to carry out its flagship activities and that it is governed by leaders who are committed to its goals and objectives. It is my ardent belief that CityNet has now over 30 years proven its mantle and has become an outstanding local government association and network worldwide. I hope that despite passing years that I will be able to continue to serve CityNet which with my long term dedication has become my alter ego. I had the great honour and I have taken great pride in serving CityNet for nearly two decades. I thank all the Members of CityNet for their invaluable contribution to CityNet and the support they extended to me during my tenure as Secretary General of CityNet. I wish all the CityNet Members, Office Bearers and Staff a Happy 30th Anniversary.

All Good Wishes,
Dato Lakhbir Singh Chahl, DJMK, PKT,
PJK, Barrister
Honorary Member
and Special Adviser, CityNet

Pearl Anniversary of CityNet Thirty Years of Working with Engines of Growth



It was the start of the millennium and a conference of the City Development Strategies was held by the World Bank and hosted by the Ministry of Constructions of Japan in the City of Tokyo. The Philippines was represented by seven cities, Dapitan, Dipolog, Olongapo, Lapu-Lapu, Negros Occidental Roxas, and San Fernando-La Union. During the break, I met Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, then the program officer of CityNet, in the ladies room. Whenever we talk of sanitation, Bernadia and I always say that clean sanitation is important because it becomes a conducive place for networking. Bernadia introduced herself and talked about CityNet and invited our city to join.

It has been my privilege to have been active with CityNet since the City of San Fernando, which I then headed as Mayor, joined the organization in 2000, thanks to Bernadia. 2000 was also the year when I received the UN Habitat Scroll of Honour Award and the Outstanding Alumna Award from my Alma Mater, the College of the Holy Spirit.

2002 was a signal year for CityNet because it also received the UN Habitat Scroll of Honour Award. Bernadia prepared the document and signed by the then Secretary General Dato' Lahkbir Singh Chahl, I endorsed it to UN Habitat and we were happy our dream for CityNet came true. CityNet's efforts since 1987 were recognized. The City of Yokohama, who hosted the Secretariat of CityNet since its inception, was appreciated.

My engagement with CityNet through the City of San Fernando continued until the end of my term in 2007. Since I was appointed consultant for Environment and International Affairs by my City after my term, I continued being active with CityNet. In 2009, Bernadia informed me that Dato' Lahkbir Singh Chahl was no longer running for Secretary General. She asked me to consider filing my application, weighed the responsibilities that were involved, and I decided to file it before the deadline.



I call myself the transition Secretary General. Unlike the former Secretary General Dato' Lahkbir Singh Chahl who served for 20 years, I served for only four years – one term, but it was during these years where the Secretariat transferred from the City of Yokohama to the City of Seoul. The change of staff, the challenges of change had to be surmounted. Mariko Sato of UN Habitat said that she saw the birth of CityNet in 1987 and saw the pains of birth of the host City of Yokohama. In 2013, we saw the marriage of CityNet with the City of Seoul and the change of domicile, from Yokohama to Seoul.

Mayor Fumiko Hayashi who assumed as Mayor of the City of Yokohama in August, 2009 at the same year as I was elected as Secretary General of CityNet on September 9, 2009, decided to continue hosting the CityNet Yokohama Project Office. She nominated Seoul for President in 2013 and Seoul under Mayor Park Won Soon nominated the City of Yokohama as Honorary President Emeritus. Such gestures of international diplomacy between cities, fostering friendship among its members are the cornerstone of peace in our region.

Before the transfer to Seoul, CityNet celebrated its 25th anniversary at the City of Surabaya under Mayor Tri Rismaharini. When we were interviewed at the press conference, without any script or rehearsal, we ended our comments by saying the CityNet theme – TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!



Yes, we can do more if we are united and working together. Under our present Secretary General Vijay Jagannathan, we have gone into a partnership with Microsoft in their program of CITYNEXT. We have recently launched our Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform in collaboration with Seoul Metropolitan Government and UNESCAP and we hope that this Pearl of Knowledge will shine and become a beacon to other cities in Asia Pacific. Urbanization, as envisioned in 1987 by our founders, UNESCAP, UN HABITAT, and UNDP is now upon us.

**CHEERS TO CITYNET, a product of
visionaries of the United Nations Family!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ITS MEMBERS
WHO NEVER WAIVERED IN THEIR
SUPPORT FOR CITYNET.**

-
Mary Jane Ortega
CityNet Special Adviser

CityNet 30 Years on

CityNet was officially established in 1987 in response to the needs of growing cities in the Asia Pacific region with the support of UNESCAP and UN-Habitat. Adnan Aliani, UNESCAP Chief of Division, Strategic Programme Management Division, and Mariko Sato, former Chief of UN-Habitat Bangkok Office, were among the first personnel being involved in the birth of the city network. They shared their memories being an integral part of CityNet and how the network picked up its role in facilitating multistakeholder cooperation.



Adnan Aliani, UNESCAP Chief of Division, Strategic Programme Management Division

(Q)

How did you first get involved with CityNet and what was the organization like back then?

I was involved in the establishment of CityNet. CityNet was an ESCAP project up to 1996. I was involved in running CityNet from 1992 to 1996. So in those days we were establishing CityNet and we were transferring the responsibility of managing CityNet from ESCAP to the city of Yokohama.

There was a lot of mundane work like establishing the standard operating procedures, forms, things like that. But there was also a lot of exciting work like building the trust between members, members and the secretariat. It is a multi-actor network, facilitates between different types of members, there were some issues like cities did not really trust NGOs, for example, and that tension, I presume still remains to a great extent. It was an exciting time.

My next involvement in CityNet was from around 2006 to 2012, when I came back to advising CityNet from ESCAP side. By then CityNet had matured into a well-established network. My moment in those days was advising CityNet in the transition from Yokohama to Seoul. Unfortunately, I did not see the whole thing through but I sort of contributed in the early stages.

(Q)

What do you think has been CityNet's most crucial role as a city network for the past three decades?

CityNet's crucial role, which I think, that also sets it apart from other networks of local authorities is its multi-actor nature. Of course local governments are the primary members but it's a network not just of local governments but also of their partners; civil society organizations, national-level organizations, and research and training institutes.

Its other crucial role has been promoting cooperation not only amongst these actors but also amongst the cities themselves on specific practical issues. CityNet has worked best when it has met specific demands or needs of its members. So from doing analytical work, but not "ivory towers" type of analytical work, but analytical work that is grounded in realities that cities face.

Let me give you an example of an early study that we did for CityNet. When we were managing CityNet, the city of Ho Chi Minh wanted to buy fifty garbage trucks. Before they went and bought the garbage trucks they referred to CityNet to say that they have received bids from the U.S., from Australia, from France and from Japan, but the average price was around 50,000 dollars. But before they committed to a particular brand they would like to understand what was the experience of other cities in using garbage trucks of these brands. So CityNet then did a very quick survey and received the replies, I think if I remember correctly, from ten or fifteen cities. And through that survey we found out lo and behold that trucks of the same specifications were being manufactured in another CityNet member, Wuhan, for 10,000 dollars apiece. And then that information was provided to Ho Chi Minh. This kind of practical work that CityNet has done has been crucial for cities of Asia and Pacific.

(Q)

Have you or your organization ever had any memorable experience for CityNet in the effort of creating sustainable cities?

Oh, yes, many. What I now find very interesting is that we were doing sustainable development and integrating the three-dimensional system with development way before they became the buzzword, and way before they were considered to be fashionable. And the reason we did that, or were able to do that, is not because we were trying to actively follow sustainable development philosophy. It just emerged because of the nature of cities and particularly because the way CityNet had been set up. It was not just a network of local governments but of local governments and their partners. And the partners often included the civil society organizations that work with the poor and civil society organizations that work on the issues of urban environment.

So let me give you an example, I think, this one is perhaps the most memorable experiences of working with CityNet for me. Songkhla, a city down in the south of Thailand, was a member of CityNet, but I think it is no longer a member of CityNet now. The mayor, who was a friend of the secretary general at that time, Dato' Lakhbir Singh, made a special request to CityNet. He had a canal that went through Songkhla, and on both sides of the canal was squatter settlement. He was having a lot of difficulty with removing them and rehabilitating the canal for economic uses and improving the environmental quality of the canal.

So we sent a delegation to Songkhla that comprises the ESCAP and included Lakhbir Singh in the first visit as well as the UCDO (Urban Community Development Office - set up by the government of Thailand) which was a national organization member of CityNet to look at what could be done. And then we had several discussions and shared several advice of the services to the city, and through those advice we decided that the city established a task force, but that task force did not only include members of the local government, but also the members of the local civil society organizations like the Lions Club, the local radio station, and also representatives of the slum dwellers themselves. And this group came up with an ingenious solution that if you look at it now would be the perfect example of integrating the three-dimensional sustainable development.

So the problem was that the slum housing encroached on the canal, and the toilets were on the canal. All the pollution was happening there. Because they were encroaching on the canal, the canal could not be used for passage of goods and services to the main port for economic purposes. So through these task force and the involvement of the people themselves, a decision was made that on both sides of the canal, concrete walkways would be made, and the people would change the orientation of their houses. So that the toilets, rather than sitting on the canal, was sitting on land, and the main entrance of their houses would be along this walkway. And then the government of Thailand, UCDO, would provide the subsidies that were needed for the people to do this change.

So what happened was that once the walkways were built, no one could encroach beyond the walkways. So automatically there was a barrier. Because the toilets were moved to land, septic tanks and other kind of sanitation facilities could be provided, so the canal was no longer polluted. But the people got to stay where they were, which was in downtown Songkhla, where their main jobs and their main income-earning opportunities were. So the slum dwellers got regularized housing, so social aspects were covered, the canal was no longer being polluted, environmental aspects were covered, and the canal was then open to be used as economic fairway. So the economic aspects of the slum development recovered. And that only happened because of the nature of CityNet and the ability and the trust that CityNet had with its members that they would allow it to go in and advise on such issues.

(Q)

Do you have any recommendation for CityNet to make it stand out among other networks for local authorities for the next decades to come?

Again, it is to focus on its very nature, which is a multi-actor, multisectoral, multilateral network. That's number one.

Number two is to focus on the needs and demands of its members and to do it in a way that is of practical use to them. So looking more towards its members, looking more towards meeting their needs, and being responsive to their needs and also completely utilizing its value-added of multi-actor network. That, I think, makes CityNet stand out and will continue to make CityNet stand out for decades to come.

When I first started working with CityNet, it was still in its infancy, and then when I came back to work with CityNet, it was a full-fledged network. By now, my assumption is, because I haven't worked with CityNet since about 2012, that it is a mature, well-established network that is well-respected. So, I hope that CityNet continues to flourish and I hope that CityNet continues to expand and goes into countries that it has fewer members from and continues to meet the needs and hopes of its own members.

Mariko Sato, former Chief of UN-Habitat Bangkok Office



Early involvement with CityNet

My engagement with CityNet has been very rewarding, because in the beginning I was just starting my career in urban development. I did have the background of working for local government in Japan. It was considered a project of ESCAP, so my role was to really bring that little baby to be more independent, sustainable organization as a whole, where members were the key.

I was at that time the program manager working in designing programs and getting funds from all sorts of sources. That was my job, so that we could implement and do some network, not just talking. So that was a big challenge.

Urbanization was becoming bigger. The north-south relationships were increasingly conducted. But there was no platform for this sort of relationship, we didn't have the internet, we didn't have the emails. So the horizontal linkages that we brought were appreciated, and nobody was working with cities at that time. Some of the cities lacked the access to international forums, so that was the one CityNet provided, the opportunity to interact and exchange technically. And then the break point was, I think CityNet was part of the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, which we managed to stage as part of Habitat II in Istanbul 20 years ago. And there we had this delegation of CityNet, bringing the voices of local governments so that the national governments listen to them.

But then we soon realized that we can't just make noises, instead we need to do things on the ground. So that has been my experience. We needed to do capacity buildings. But now, you know everybody is working with the cities, everybody is talking about cities, especially with the new urban agenda adopted.

What's next for CityNet?

30 years later, now we need to find a niche for CityNet, what makes CityNet different from, say, UCLG or C40, and other networks. And the best way perhaps is to ask the cities, so I think CityNet Congress this year provides an excellent opportunity to get more feedback, to recalibrate and to revive the commitment of the member cities and non-city members to the agenda or CityNet's charter. Perhaps you may need to amend some of the charters, so that it's more fit to purpose, updated, not stagnated. Thirty years is a long time, I'm happy that the baby stays in a good shape after its departure from Yokohama. I hope that CityNet would continue to grow, be strong, and contribute for the cities to achieve sustainable development goals, localization and the new urban agenda. So if you can plan the programs into these, I think it would be appreciated by the national governments and also an agency like UN-Habitat.

Yokohama hosted CityNet until 2013 before it's relocated to Seoul until today. Despite being the host city, they have to be neutral in the actions and more focused into Asia Pacific rather than from the host city's point of view. I had a lot of discussions with the city of Yokohama. As the host city as well as President, now Seoul Metropolitan Government takes the lead which means that the credits and credibility of CityNet is the credibility of, the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

SEVANATHA's Experiences with CityNet

SEVANATHA is a national NGO registered with the Department of the Social Service and the National Secretariat for NGOs in Sri Lanka established in 1989. It was founded by a Group of Human Settlement Sector Activists, led by Mr. K. A. Jayarathne, Urban Planner and Community Development specialist.

The Vision of SEVANATHA is "to become a dynamic change agent for transforming the lives of Urban and Rural Poor to be self-reliant and empowered members in the Sri Lankan Society. Its mission emphasizes on "Improving its own skills and capacities, SEVANATHA is committed to revitalize and enhance the capacities and creativity of Urban and Rural Poor in Sri Lanka "

SEVANATHA established its linkages with CityNet as far back as early 1990s and continued to be an Associate Member of CityNet. The President of SEVANATHA or a representative has been participating in almost all the annual CityNet Executive Committee meeting, thus maintaining the unbroken relationship between SEVANATHA and CityNet. The role played by CityNet as one of the most prominent networking organizations in the Asia Pacific region should be recognized as it has actively advocated the global development themes and promoted city level actions by way of conducting training workshops, seminars, facilitating exchange visits and providing financial and technical support to implement City level demonstration projects. It was also evident that during the past three decades that CityNet has shared information related to the best practices initiated by its members as well as provided training programs for its members. We have experienced in receiving information from the CityNet secretariat in almost every week in the past three decades which is an admirable efforts of the staff of the CityNet Secretariat.

SEVANATHA has benefited immensely by being a member of CityNet cluster not only for receiving information on development and innovations that are taking place in the Asia Pacific region but also, more specifically, for getting wide opportunities to share our experiences with the city level partners in the region. SEVANATHA also had the opportunity to provide training programs for its young project staffs in the neighbouring countries as CityNet provides the support for such training programs. Other benefits that SEVANATHA has enjoyed from being part of this city network is implementing projects for disadvantaged communities in the city of Colombo during the past two decades through the CityNet Sri Lanka National Chapter hosted by Colombo Municipal Council. SEVANATHA has been maintaining a cordial working relationship with this National Chapter coordinated by Colombo Municipal Council.

SEVANATHA and Colombo Municipal Council have successfully accomplished several projects funded by CityNet, particularly aimed at low income communities. A community hall for low income children's education in Moratuwa Municipal Council area was completed in 2005, two demonstration projects to promote the artistic skills of children in selected urban poor communities in the City of Colombo were successfully completed in 2015 and 2016. Contrary to the modern and vibrant city landscape, Colombo has a considerable low income population that constitutes of around 44% of the city's residential population. According to a survey carried out by the Colombo Municipal Council and SEVANATHA in 2012, it was revealed that there are about 77,643 families living in low income settlements. Another

important project focusing on Pro-Active Environment Education of the children age below fourteen in urban low income settlement in the City of Colombo was also successfully completed by SEVANATHA with the support of CityNet in the year 2014. It has also carried out another community project called; Community Learning Center project in settlement no. 241 Seevali Avenue, Colombo 08 in 2014. This project provided computer training opportunity on basic computer literacy to the children below 18 years old selected from the settlement no. 241 and adjoining communities. The project has been managed by the Community Development Committees (CDC) of settlement no.241 with the technical support of SEVANATHA.

By considering the very effective role played by CityNet in promoting sustainable urban living in Asia Pacific region, as an Associate Member who has benefited through its advocacy, training and financial and technical support program, SEVANATHA is happy to give its recommendation for the continuation of CityNet’s training programs and information sharing activities which would help its members to improve their knowledge, skills and performances.

Providing financial and technical support to small municipalities, local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to implement local level projects should also be enhanced as such contributions would help strengthen the relationships among the local authorities, CBOs, NGOs and CityNet. It is our sincere hope and wish that CityNet would become stronger in its capacity, activities and collaboration with cities and CBO and NGO partners in the Asia Pacific region to address emerging urban challenges. Student Based Sustainable and Pro Active Environment Education Project

Student Based Sustainable and Pro Active Environment Education Project



Ms.Ruvini Perera, the local resource person, presents the Bio Diversity in Crow Island.



Students learn to identify living things at the site through drawings.

Artistic Skill Training for Children of Low income Communities



Final Day event of Artistic Skill Training Program at the conference hall of Sri Sangaraja Vidyalaya, Colombo 10



AN ARTICLE BY
H. M. U. Chularathna
Executive Director
SEVANATHA URC

Dynamic Collaboration with CityNet for a More Sustainable City

Tarlac city applied its membership with CityNet in 2016 hoping to jumpstart the efforts in achieving a more sustainable future for the city. Through this article they share their perspectives about the CityNet’s distinctive features as the biggest association of urban stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region.



F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City’s center of economic activity -This is where majority of business establishments in the City are located.



Honorable City Mayor Maria Cristina Angeles and Honorable Vice Mayor Genaro Mendoza at the newly constructed “I love Tarlac City” landmark signage located at Tarlac City Plazuela

The idea of joining CityNet was suggested to our City Mayor, Honorable Maria Cristina C. Angeles, by former Tarlac City Administrator, Mr. Vladimir T. Mata who first heard of CityNet’s great works in providing support to some Local Government Unit’s initiatives on sustainable development during his stint as the Administrator of Dagupan City in 2012.

At that time, Dagupan City is a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Government for Sustainability (ICLEI). During one of Dagupan City’s engagements with other ICLEI member, particularly San Fernando City (La Union) and Baguio City, our colleagues in the two cities mentioned that they are members of an organization called CityNet, and that the organization is providing them with technical support in implementing projects on local adaptation and environmental sustainability.

CityNet links urban stakeholders

For the past three decades, CityNet has been regarded as a pivotal international coordinating body that links urban stakeholders towards achieving worldwide sustainability and resilience. Moreover, the organization has been very efficient in harmonizing the efforts of its members to be part of the global movement towards climate change adaptation and disaster resilience despite the challenges brought about by their differences in levels of economic development, diverse cultural background, socio-political framework, among other factors.

Remarkably, CityNet continuously scales up its technical assistance throughout the years of its existence, through the various knowledge transfer platforms for the participating members, especially to developing cities. We believe that this particular initiative of the organization, bridges information gap between advanced cities and developing cities, that results to a more inclusive development in the international community.

What I find different about CityNet, compared with other international organization, is the clustering of its members. I think this approach is a very efficient way of linking cities according to their specific needs, strengths, priorities, among other aspects wherein they share similarities. This method makes access to information easier among member cities.

Moreover, the clustering mechanism of CityNet facilitates linkages among cities with common direction in achieving their respective sustainable development goals. Most importantly, the clustering scheme can foster stronger ties among cities through a more tangible partnership methods, such as sister city partnership, that can open opportunities for cultural exchange, and economic trade among cities within the same cluster.



Different perspective views of the proposed Tarlac City Sports Complex



The Tarlac City Plazuela is among the well-known landmarks in the City. This is where most of community events are held during time of festivities such as the Barangay (Community) Night, Ms. Tarlac Pageant, and other cultural gatherings.

Tarlac City's Partnership with CityNet

Tarlac City is relatively in its starting stage, in terms of implementing innovative sustainable projects, as compared with other Local Government Units in the Philippines. Most of the projects that aim to make Tarlac City a sustainable city are still in their planning and conceptualization stage.

The City Government of Tarlac is optimistic that our membership with CityNet will ignite the initial steps that we have made towards achieving a more sustainable tomorrow, and spur partnership that creates unlimited opportunities in innovating sustainable projects.

Tarlac City with a population of 342,493 (2015 Census) is considered as "A Strategic Periphery of Growth in Central Luzon". This is due to the city's strategic location, being at the heart of major and international transportation facilities. Four major expressways traverse our city namely:

- (a) North Luzon Expressway (linking Metro Manila to the Northern Provinces);
- (b) Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (linking Major Provinces to major Airport and Port in the Philippines);
- (c) Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (extending the link of Metro Manila to Northern Luzon); and
- (d) Central Luzon Link Expressway (linking Central Luzon to the Eastern Seaboard).

Distinctly, our city is also part of the W-GROWTH Corridor, the Central Luzon's key growth area. With services, industry, and agriculture as main economic drivers, Central Luzon adopted a spatial strategy that will strongly push for the promotion of the stated sectors.

Considering its growth potentials, and to accommodate increasing number of road users, it was identified that upgrading the capacity of our road network is a crucial step that needs to be taken. Moreover, the structural and technical upgrading of our road networks will ensure the safety and convenience of the road users.

Tarlac City has a total road network with a total of approximately 912 kilometers. Majority of our roads are lit by High Pressure Sodium Light (HPS) which has a power rating of 250-400 watts. According to the data from our City Accounting Office as of June 2017, our city's flat rate for the electric consumption of our road lights amounts to Php. 2.3 Million (USD45,426.16). To reduce the energy consumption and to save from the cost of electricity, the city government is currently studying to replace all HPS lights with hybrid solar lights.

It will be a tremendous help if CityNet can provide technical assistance in conducting feasibility study to provide technical inputs for our intended upgrading of the lighting system of our road networks. Aside from this, we would also like to seek CityNet's invaluable support by linking us with other international development and funding organizations that would provide funding support to subsidize the cost of this breakthrough initiative.

We are grateful to CityNet for endorsing our city to Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) to participate in the Effective Urban Infrastructure Programming (EUIP) – Seminar/Workshop and Good Practices which was held in Singapore on April 12-21, 2017. During the workshop, our participants were able to further develop our concept paper for the planned construction of Tarlac City Multi-purpose, World Class, Disaster Resilient, and Sustainable Sports Complex which is until now is still on planning stage.

The project is tentatively planned to be located in San Miguel, Tarlac City, which is about 12.3 km from the Tarlac City Business District. The site has access to major public transportation from Mc Arthur Highway (5.5 kms.); 6.4 km from Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx); 12 km. from Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEx); and, 44 km from Clark International Airport.

The project has an estimated area of 15 hectares with the following infrastructure components/features:

- (a) Multi-purpose facility (gymnasium, convention center, evacuation center with sewerage water treatment facility)
- (b) Heritage and leisure park (outdoor sports and recreation facilities, jogging and biking lanes, picnic tables with solar-powered lights)
- (c) Parking area with underground rainwater-impounding facility to be pumped to restrooms
- (d) Commercial stalls around the center and collapsible mechanically-controlled movable stalls

We would like to recommend a dynamic collaboration with CityNet, by providing technical assistance for the development of a comprehensive feasibility study that will cover environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and disaster proofing of the planned Sports Complex. The feasibility study can be a useful reference in accessing funding assistance from the National Government, through the People's Survival Fund, and other international development funding organization.

This progressive collaboration will ensure a lasting impact in the success of this endeavor, and that includes economic development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, among other expected benefits of this project.

AN ARTICLE BY
Elton Jun Veloria
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Tarlac City

The Leading City-to-City Networking Facilitator and Actor in Asia-Pacific

Taipei City joined CityNet in 2004 and has since enjoyed various benefits through fruitful collaborations and active participations in the CityNet program activities. By becoming CityNet member, Taipei City gets the opportunity to share its successful urban development with other cities in the Asia Pacific and learn how to make the city more sustainable



The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system is central to Taipei City's public transport system.



The public bike rental service YouBike in Taipei

This is a harvest year for CityNet, not only because it marks its 30th anniversary, but also because it is holding its biggest regular event: the quadrennial Congress. We would like to send our best wishes and congratulations to CityNet and also our sincerest gratitude for its contribution to sustainable urban development.

Since November 2004, when Taipei was officially admitted as a member at the 19th Session of the Executive Committee in Lyon, we have been privileged to participate in a wide spectrum of CityNet events, including the Integrated Urban Planning for Sustainable Urban Management in 2005, 2013 CityNet Seoul Congress, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting and International Seminar and the 2016 Executive Committee Meeting. In the last two years, we have also had the honour of two of our members of staff, Ms. Fan-Yu Hung and Ms. Szu-tu Yi, being enrolled in the Secondment Staff Programme (2016 and 2017, respectively).

For the past three decades, CityNet has made remarkable achievements in promoting environmental sustainability among AsiaPacific cities. In 2002, it won the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for facilitating city-to-city networking among local governments and NGOs in Asia. Through bilateral and multilateral partnership with organisations such as ECOSOC, UNESCO, UCLG, JICA, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, it has dedicated itself to building mutual understanding and technological collaboration among its members.

In order to raise Taipei's international profile, in recent years we have joined some important international city-level organisations. To date, Taipei is an official member of UCLG, ANMC 21, SCI, APCS and CityNet. CityNet distinguishes itself from other international organisations in that it consists of governmental and non-governmental organisations mostly in the Asia Pacific region, and a few in Europe, as well as their partners in civil society. CityNet has used city-to-city cooperation to promote environmental protection, hygiene and social welfare systems, and to advance infrastructural, administrative and financial strategic planning in developing countries.



In 2013, former Taipei City Deputy Mayor Tim T.Y. Ting speaks about “Making Taipei City a People-Friendly City” at the Seoul Congress.



Participants of the Transportation Strategy Workshop for Asian Cities experience Seoul's T-Money public transport payment system in the subway.

To facilitate our diplomatic relationships with other cities, Taipei has been actively participating in CityNet events and contributing to sustainable development. Although we are not yet part of the executive committee, CityNet has been gracious enough to invite us to its training programs, seminars, congresses and executive committee meetings to share ideas on policy and technological solutions relating to urban development. In 2005, for the first time, we participated as a full member at the 2005 CityNet Congress in Hanoi, Vietnam. In 2009, we attended the Yokohama Congress, themed “Harmonious Cities for Our Future”, during which Taipei was nominated for auditor for the period of 2010–2013. Although our nomination was not successful, it helped enhance the city’s international visibility and status.

In 2013, our former Deputy Mayor Tim T.Y. Ting was invited to speak on the topic “Making Taipei a People-Friendly City” at the Seoul Congress, the first after the Secretariat relocated from Yokohama. He began his speech by talking about Taipei’s geographical location, population and political and economic status, before turning to the eco-friendly public transportation system and other people-centred infrastructure. On the next day, he joined the Mayors’ Forum, featuring a city-to-city dialogue for CityNet member cities where they explored the possibility of strengthening partnerships to

find “Innovative Solutions for People-Friendly Cities”. He also visited Sang Bum Kim, the then Seoul Vice-Mayor for Administrative Affairs, who spoke of Seoul being on friendly terms with Taipei, its first sister city. Kim also said that CityNet is an exceptional exchange platform for different cities to share their experiences and discuss solutions to urban issues.

In 2015, former Taipei Deputy Mayor Chou Li-fang joined the Executive Committee Meeting and International Seminar, entitled “Asian Perspective on Sustainable Urbanisation”, in Sidoarjo, Indonesia, among more than 150 representatives from 21 countries. During the session on “Asian Perspectives on Sustainable Urbanisation—Smart Cities”, she delivered a presentation on “Green Transportation and ITS Development in Taipei City”, in which she shared the city’s vision for 2050: carbon reduction, intelligent management, and an integrated transportation system. She also talked about the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system, central to the city’s public transport system and completed by the public bike rental service YouBike, as well as the intelligent transportation system (ITS) that ensures easy travel by smart card and smartphone app.

The 34th Executive Committee Meeting in 2016 was attended by the Executive



The Executive Secretary for International Affairs Advisory Council of Taipei City Government Ching-Yu Yao expressed gratitude to the Executive Director of Development Cooperation Department, International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama Toru Hashimoto.

Secretary for International Affairs Advisory Council, Taipei City Government, Ching-Yu Yao. During the welcome party, she had a chance to greet Makati Mayor Mar-len Abigail S. Binay and expressed the gratitude to CityNet Yokohama Project Office Programs Director Kendra Hirata, and the Executive Director of Development Cooperation Department, International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama Toru Hashimoto, for organising the 9th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar and Symposium with the Taipei government. Kendra Hirata said that Taipei’s assistance had helped reduce costs, and it was the result of in-depth cooperation between CityNet and its members.

After joining the meeting organised in Makati, Philippines, the delegation also paid a visit to Asian Development Bank, to discuss possibilities of collaboration with the bank or major international cities in Southeast Asia.

Lastly, the then engineer of the Architecture Section, Taipei City Parking Management and Development Office, Fan-Yu Hung was seconded to the CityNet Secretariat in Seoul from April to September 2016. During this half-year program, Ms. Hung took part in various CityNet activities such as the Transportation Strategy Workshop for Asian Cities (TSWAC), Asian Cities Bicycle Forum 2016 and Seoul

Mayors Forum on Climate Change 2016. The TSWAC, for example, exposed her to the remarkable achievements of urban development in Seoul and enabled her to create policy projects and short-term action plans using SWOT analysis and PDM. “I found it very interesting how Seoul has used advanced technologies, like TOPIS, to gather information and analyse it for use in transport policy”, she reflected. “I will be sure to discuss Seoul’s best policies in my report in order to apply them in our city’s transport policy”.

In the past two decades, CityNet has successfully helped cities craft development plans. In the decades to come, we hope that CityNet will continue its role as a communicator, facilitator and agent through workshops, congresses, executive committee meetings etc. We also hope that there will be more chances for us to make an active contribution and share our progress on urban development, so that we can exchange ideas and experience with other cities and thus contribute to the common good of sustainable urban development.

AN ARTICLE BY
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Photos by: Taipei City Government/CityNet

Autumn/Winter Highlights

Several innovative programs were organized by CityNet for the second half of 2017 with the three highlights being the workshop on urban lighting, a learning session on improving local sustainable transport program for ASEAN cities, and the climate leadership program



Urban Lighting Workshop

Urban lighting, a crucial element of a city's energy infrastructure, is an important public service that local authorities need to provide for their citizens. However in many cities, lighting is equipped with old and inefficient technologies. As outdated lighting technology is costly due to its maintenance and high consumption of electricity, this can be a burden for a city's budget. Streetlights represent one of the most cost-effective opportunities for energy savings and for reducing municipalities' energy costs and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The use of energy-efficient lighting technologies (such as LEDs, intelligent lighting or off-grid solar streetlights for example) has great potential to save costs due to reduction in electricity consumption.

CityNet partnered with Seoul Metropolitan Government and Lighting Urban Community International (LUCI) to organize the Urban Lighting Workshop: Benefits of Sustainable Urban Lighting in Seoul from 29-30 June 2017. 40 participants from 16 cities in eight different countries in the Asia-Pacific region shared experiences, challenges and solutions for sustainable urban lighting. CityNet members Semarang, Da Nang and Seoul shared their initiatives of well-planned lighting using new energy efficient technologies. The examples from different cities showed that well designed lighting has substantial co-benefits such as improvements in safety and public space, making cities more attractive for tourists and businesses.

The two day workshop gave participating city officials an overview of the implementation process towards renewed lighting and its benefits in regard to cost-saving effects of energy-efficient street lighting and improved public spaces. In interactive workshop sessions, assisted with a brief analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) participants assessed the lighting systems in their cities and developed initial strategies in a road mapping session.



Seoul as the host city of this workshop is one of the pioneers in integrating energy efficient LEDs into smart city strategies. Besides presenting its various initiatives and policies on urban lighting the city also invited participants to a night tour in which workshop attendees could experience the city's lighting concept.

To support its members in participating in the workshop CityNet partnered with Philips Lighting Korea. As a sponsor the lighting manufacturer helped to compensate some of the workshop expenses.

People-to-People Mobility



In conjunction with the 3rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Mayors Forum in Taguig City, Philippines, CityNet and its associate member – The League of Cities of the Philippines – successfully organized an afternoon learning session on cases, policies, and practices on improving local sustainable transport program for ASEAN cities.

The session provided a convergence platform of the different ongoing regional efforts to promote urban mobility within the framework of sustainable transport. The discussion was expected to help identify needs and challenges of ASEAN cities for the development of a more focused program intervention to address their capacity gaps related to implementing their local transport programs.

This session was also anchored on the different global and regional binding commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals with focus on SDG 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable), New Urban Agenda, and the ASEAN Socio-Economic Blue Print while taking into account the dynamic roles of local governments to translate and implement these commitments at the local level.

The session that aimed to jumpstart regional initiative with CityNet on raising awareness and strengthen knowledge sharing on sustainable transport options was led by the Seoul former Vice Mayor Sangbum Kim

What made this session special was the dialogue facilitated by the former Mayor of San Fernando who is also CityNet Special Adviser Mary Jane Ortega who invited Mayors from CityNet members to share their perspectives as to how they implement sustainable urban mobility programs, namely Mayor Jaime Fresneda of Muntinlupa, Mayor Gopal Prasad Regmi of Siddharthanagar, and Mayor Bima Arya Sugiarto of Bogor. In addition to the city leaders, experts from the Korea Transport Institute, Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank also contributed to the idea on improving the city policy.

Climate Leadership Program

Climate change is a global phenomenon that requires a set of actions at the local level and is one of the most serious environmental challenges facing the world today where cities are the most vulnerable to the negative impacts.

It causes high growth rate, land-use change, reduced open space, and ineffective governance. It should be anticipated from many aspects, however, the anticipation is characterized by uncertainties, complexity and conflicting interests. The complexity of the climate change impacts in one hand and conflict of interest in the other is where leaders become the key players to solve various issues for a better management and a greener, smarter toward resilient city.

Leaders from all over the world are challenged to: collaborate across traditional boundaries; anticipate future trends and associated risks and opportunities; strengthen their leadership competencies and mindsets; develop a systemic understanding of causes and effects of climate change and its relation to sustainable development; and facilitate transformational changes and innovative actions within their organizations and networks.

To address these issues, CityNet, in collaboration with Jakarta Research Council and UCLG ASPAC, held the first phase of Climate Leadership Program in Jakarta on 28-30 August. The three phase program is aimed at anticipating future climate risks as well as opportunities and to cultivate a new more collaborative leadership at all levels, targeting decision-makers and leaders at many levels who are working in the context of climate change with and within the government.





CITYVOICES

CityNet magazine, CityVoices, is published twice annually. It is a collection of experiences and reflections on CityNet's partners and member cities projects, policies and programmes. Each issue focuses on a particular theme related to CityNet's mission to connect urban actors and deliver tangible solutions for cities across the Asia Pacific region. CityVoices is also available online in PDF format on the CityNet website.

For inquiries please contact the CityNet Secretariat at media@citynet-ap.org.

CITYNET

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 more than 130 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers. CityNet connects actors, exchanges knowledge and builds commitment to more sustainable and resilient cities.

