



135 Members

87 Full

46 Associate

2 Corporate

Full Members:**Bangladesh**

Barisal
Dhaka North
Dhaka South
Khulna
Rajshahi
Sylhet

Bhutan

Thimphu

Cambodia

Phnom Penh

Chinese Taipei

Kaohsiung

Taichung

Taipei

Fiji

Suva

India

Guntur

Mumbai

Solapur Municipal Corporation

Indonesia

Balikpapan

Banda Aceh

Bandung

Banjarnegara

Bekasi

Bogor

Gorontalo

Jakarta

Makassar

Palembang

Pangkal Pinang

Semarang

Sidoarjo Regency

Sukabumi

Sukabumi Regency

Surabaya

Tarakan

Tomohon

Iran

Esfahan

Japan

Yokohama

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur

Penang

Seberang Perai

Subang Jaya

Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar

Myanmar

Yangon

Nepal

Bharatpur

Biratnagar

Birganj

Butwal

Hetauda

Kathmandu

Lalitpur

Pokhara

Siddharthanagar

Tansen

Pakistan

Islamabad(Capital Development Authority)

Philippines

Baguio

Calbayog

Iloilo City

Ligao

Makati

Marikina

Muntinlupa

Naga

Quezon

San Fernando

R.O.Korea

Busan

Changwon

Incheon

Seoul

Suwon

Yongin

Sri Lanka

Colombo

Dehiwala – Mt. Lavinia Municipal Council

Galle

Kandy

Moratuwa

Negombo

Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte

Thailand

Bangkok

Vietnam

Da Nang

Hai Phong

Hanoi

Ho Chi Minh

Hue

Tam Ky

Associate Members:**Australia**

Observatory PASCAL

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies

Centre for Urban Studies

Chittagong Development Authority

Dushtha Shasthya Kendra

Municipal Association of Bangladesh

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha

Canada

Centre for Asia Pacific initiatives,

University of Victoria

France

Greater Lyon

India

Ahmedabad Study Action Group

All India Institute of Local Self Government

Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities

Bombay First

Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Mythri Sarva Seva Samithi

National Institute of Urban Affairs

Society For Development Studies

Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres

Youth For Unity And Voluntary Action

Indonesia

Tirtanadi Water Supply and Drainage

Urban and Regional Development Institute

Japan

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Office TAPE

Temple University, Japan Campus

Yokohama Association for International

Communications and Exchanges

Mongolia

Mongolian Association of Urban Centres

Nepal

Municipal Association of Nepal

P.R.China

World Resources Institute

Pakistan

Orangi Pilot Project-Research & Training Institute

Pakistan Institute for Environment and Development

Action Research

Lahore University of Management Sciences

Philippines

Center For Advanced Philippine Studies, Inc.

Freedom to Build, Inc.

League of Cities of the Philippines

Philippine Councilors League

R.O.Korea

Asian Bridge

Singapore

World Toilet Organization

Sri Lanka

Galle Development Foundation

Human & Environment Links Progressive Organization

Management Resources for Good Governance

SEVANATHA – Urban Resource Centre

Thailand

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi

National Municipal League of Thailand

Thailand Environment Institute

Vietnam

Association of Cities of Vietnam

Corporate Members:**France**

Veolia Environment

Singapore

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CITYNET

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The year 2014 was a significant turning point during which there was a global recognition of the role of cities in sustainable development. Coincidentally, we also reached a landmark with one half the world's seven billion people now living in cities. By 2030 another one billion more persons will be urbanites. Cities are therefore at the center stage of global policy discussions, from their role in combating climate change to how they can provide basic civic services to their residents.

Rapid urbanization has its down sides as well, and these raise a number of questions that are not easy to answer. How can these burgeoning cities provide jobs to their growing populations? How can cities avoid witnessing 24/7 traffic jams as more and more of their citizens prefer cars to public transportation? How can cities cope with weather induced disasters that destroy billions of dollars of public and private investments? How can cities assure a minimum quality of air, water, road safety and public conveniences for their residents?

The common experience that defines our perspective is the speed and scale of change taking place in our cities. While Asian city officials are coping with delivering services required to support growing economic activities, they have had to creatively juggle significant demands for housing and basic infrastructure of incoming populations. In addition, as between half and three quarters of city incomes are generated through the informal sector, meeting the specific social and economic needs of the urban poor requires frugal innovations from many creative and cost effective solutions in Asian cities.



One of the recommendations emerging from the 2014 Executive Committee Meeting in Hue is for CityNet members to showcase their unique Asian perspectives on what constitutes sustainable urbanization. With your support and collaboration, we plan to highlight our members' best practices at HABITAT III in 2016. For this to succeed we need your insights on how your city stakeholders have crafted local solutions that balance the needs of a modern metropolis with the social and environmental policies that promote sustainable urban development.

CityNet Secretariat invites all of our members to contribute in developing these Asian perspectives on urbanization!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Jagannathan'.

Vijay Jagannathan
Secretary General
CityNet

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CITY



Warm greetings from the Seoul Metropolitan Government. I am Won-soon Park, Mayor of Seoul and President of CityNet. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the members and partners of CityNet for supporting CityNet and participating in CityNet's projects. It is a great privilege for the City of Seoul to publish this year's CityNet Annual Report and share with members and partners the progress and development of CityNet over the past year.

The year 2014 was an important year for CityNet. It was the first business year after the Secretariat was relocated to Seoul in March 2013 and the Congress was held in November 2013. It was also the year that CityNet focused its efforts on projects that aimed to solve urban problems in a new way, including CityNet Services and City App. CityNet has gone through many changes over the past two years, but I believe that it will make a great leap forward. As the President of CityNet, I kindly ask for the unwavering support of CityNet's members and partners.

We are now facing a time in which we must address the question "What is the future of sustainable development for Asian cities?" As you know, in the year 2015, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals will come to an end and the international community will have to take up the challenge of finding new ways to achieve sustainable development in the future. Against this backdrop, the role of CityNet will become increasingly more important. CityNet will bring together cities across the Asia Pacific region in unity and help them meet their common development goals.

The strength of CityNet lies in the strong unity of its 135 members. Throughout its history, CityNet has strived to find solutions to the problems that each city faces. Going forward, CityNet can share the experiences and know-how of each city and facilitate exchanges and cooperation to help cities in the region achieve more efficient development. The City of Seoul can also play an important role. As a smart city, it can lead the way for increased collaboration among cities to achieve more environment and more people-friendly development across infrastructure, transportation, environment, urban planning, and e-government sectors.

We have already begun a promising new year. Let's work together more closely to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,



Won Soon Park
Mayor of Seoul

INTRODUCTION



The 2014 Annual Report gives an overview of key events, programs, and projects implemented by the CityNet Secretariat throughout 2014. This year was a dynamic and remarkable year for the CityNet network, with a series of programs held in collaboration with CityNet's partners to support and facilitate sustainable development in the Asia Pacific.

CityNet connects urban stakeholders, exchanges knowledge and builds commitment to more sustainable and resilient cities not only through trainings and programs but also through publications.

The successful year of 2014 was summed up at the 32nd Executive Committee Meeting held in November in Hue, Vietnam.

Read on for more details of program highlights during 2014 and a glimpse of plans for the future.



CityNet

- **Connect:** We bring together local governments, civil society, and the private sector to collectively act for more sustainable cities.
- **Exchange:** We unite key stakeholders to share knowledge and find innovative solutions for urban challenges.
- **Build:** We believe in building a movement for more people-friendly, socially just, ecologically sound, economically productive, culturally vibrant, and globally connected cities.

TRANSFORMING CITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

After signing an MoU during the CityNet Congress in 2013, CityNet and Microsoft launched a flagship program called CityApp that uses technology to find solutions to various urban issues.

CityApp in Kathmandu, Nepal

CityApp was first launched in Kathmandu, Nepal at an event that took place from March 13th-15th. At the event, Microsoft and CityNet helped catalyze technological and social transformation in the city of Kathmandu. Tapping into the talent, creativity and commitment of local NGOs, start-ups, government officials and hundreds of young software developers, the event resulted in the incubation of web and mobile applications offering services on urban safety, health, public advocacy, and transport. CityApp Kathmandu brought together government officials, developers, and citizens to conceptualize, build and implement innovative mobile and web applications to increase communication and transparency between citizens and government.

The innovative CityApp project fits closely with CityNet's mission of building people-centered cities by exchanging knowledge and best practices across governments, civil society, and the private sector. CityApp employs technology in ways that make cities more citizen-centered, responsive and efficient. CityApp is an ongoing project, with the potential to be replicated in more CityNet member cities in the future.

CityApp Kathmandu factbox

- Incorporated information and communications technology (ICT) in an innovative way, firmly establishing CityNet's status as a contemporary, proactive organization that offers cutting-edge programs
- Connected 103 developers with 20+ Kathmandu officials to create homegrown solutions to urban problems, empowering local citizens to improve their surroundings through technology
- Grew the capacity of Kathmandu Municipal Government by providing new tools for communication, civic engagement and city management, while increasing the awareness of technological solutions
- Renewed the CityNet's focus on creating practical solutions reflecting real problems identified by government, NGO, and civil society stakeholders
- The winner, Team Yorbit presented their innovative vehicle tracking app at the World Cities Summit in Singapore, June 2014

“This is an amazing event. The apps that our citizens have created will go a long way in ensuring the socio-economic sustainability of our city. It is a great showcase of the power of technology and the role it can play in making cities better for people.”

Mr. Laxman Aryal
Kathmandu CEO

Kathmandu Nepal

103 participants



Problem statements:

Open spaces



Waste management



Public transport



Helping hand for emergencies



Parking facilities improvements



Urban planning issue updates



Mapping amenities information



Demographic information system



Cultural heritage sites database



01 The first winner of CityApp Kathmandu

02 CityApp Closing Ceremony

03 Team Yorbit presented their innovative vehicle tracking app at the World Cities Summit in Singapore, that Vijay Jagannathan also attended.



CityApp in Makassar, Indonesia

Following the success of the first CityApp in Kathmandu, Microsoft and CityNet initiated the second CityApp program in Makassar, Indonesia. The event took place from October 1st and 2nd, 2014. This time there were approximately 400 potential programmers and software developers from six local universities putting their heads together to solve a number of urban challenges facing the city of Makassar.

Prior to the two-day event, the City of Makassar submitted nine problem statements that focused on unemployment, social security, healthcare, education, waste management, skills training and workforce development, green spaces, public housing and creating a safer city.

The winning app was created by a team from UIN Alauddin University which addressed the challenge of unemployment as a result of low skill sets. The crowdsourcing app showed relevant trainings and job opportunities, making them available to the database of job seekers.

CityApp 2014 will continue to grow and develop throughout 2015.

“CityApp is a great way to gather fresh new ideas from many young developers and programmers to create a better city using technology. It allowed us, as the young generation, to share our ideas to help build a better city.”

**Milgevia
participant**

01 The first day of CityApp in Makassar

02 Press Conference

03 A student app demonstrates a waste management game



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“CityApp is a very important method to find the solutions to many hot issues in Makassar by engaging citizens.”

Moh. Ramdhan Pomanto
Makassar Mayor

Makassar
Indonesia

400 participants



Problem statements:

Unemployment issue



Family social security



24-hour healthcare



Education system



Human resource development



Green city



Affordable public housing



Law and enforcement



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04 CityApp Makassar Opening Ceremony

05 The winning team

06 Presentation of the runner-up

CITYNET'S SOLUTION TO TACKLING URBAN CHALLENGES

CityNet Services was launched in early 2014 to give a voice to our members and to match member cities with best practices that address their urban challenges.

CityNet Services serves as a platform to coordinate exchanges, to develop a portfolio of services available within the CityNet network, and to encourage collaboration between our members and partners. The programmes include: capacity building, exposure visits, technical expertise, and project management. Cities can apply through the website by outlining their most pressing urban challenge as well as describing the expertise that they can offer to other cities.

KOTI visits Iloilo

In February, CityNet arranged Korea Transport Institute's (KOTI) visit to Iloilo in the Philippines where they shared Korea's urban transport development and discussed 'Transport Planning for Important Events'. The then KOTI's president, Dr. Gyeng Chul Kim shared his expertise in preparing the transport infrastructure for major international events with Iloilo, where they have been preparing for the 2015 APEC meetings. One of the projects was installing traffic lights to reduce traffic congestions.

Sidoarjo visits Seoul and Incheon

CityNet had the honour of receiving Mr. H. Saiful Ilah, Regent of Sidoarjo at the Seoul Secretariat in May 2014. Delegates from Sidoarjo visited multiple sites in Incheon and the World Cup Stadium in Seoul to learn about the two cities' experiences preparing for the 1988 Olympics, the 2002 FIFA World Cup, and the 2014 Asian Games.

01 Sidoarjo delegation and CityNet Secretariat staff

02 CLC visits to Songdo IFEZ U-City Control Center

CLC visits to Songdo

In partnership with the Centre for Livable Cities (CLC), CityNet also facilitated 36 young and promising government officials from a number of ministries in Singapore, to visit Songdo in Incheon on July 21st, 2014. The CLC-led delegation gained in-depth information on how the Free Economic Zone was created. During the visit they also learnt about how Songdo improves urban sustainability through their use of advanced IT systems, green energy efforts, and solid waste management best practices.



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Makati – Seoul Technical Cooperation among Cities of Developing Countries

A delegation from Makati City visited Seoul for one week from September 22nd-26th, 2014. The delegation was made up of urban planners, managers, GIS experts, and policy makers related to Smart Cities. The program offered Makati officials the opportunity to share Seoul's best practices in urban planning, the implementation of ICT technology for urban development and GIS. The program offered a unique opportunity to practice knowledge transfer and exchange through study visits and active discussions.

03 CityNet program officer Shomi Kim gives an overview of CityNet

04 CityNet Services participants

05 Makati delegation visits Seoul History Museum

06 CityNet Secretariat staff poses with the Makati delegation



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Mumbai and Hue visit Seoul

Through CityNet Services, five senior city managers and urban planners from Hue and Mumbai visited Seoul from January 27th-29th, 2014 to learn about the urban development policies implemented by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG). Representatives from the two cities had a chance to present their case studies to explore a number of solutions proposed by SMG experts.

The learning methods not only consisted of presentations and discussions with SMG officials to address any questions raised by participants, but also site visits and technical tours that included Sangam Digital Media Center, Nanjido Sky Park and Seoul Transport Operation and Information Service (TOPIS).

URBAN PLANNING FOR CITY LEADERS WORKSHOP

CityNet's partnership with the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Center (KLRTC) continued with the Urban Planning for City Leaders Workshop that was held in conjunction with the 6th International Conference on World Class Sustainable Cities "People make communities, communities make cities".

With growing recognition of the role of cities in the fight for global sustainability, urban leaders are increasingly challenged to make the right decisions for the short and long-term. With limited resources, a fast changing urban landscape and short political cycles, harnessing the benefits of urbanization can be a difficult task. This short course raised questions about land use and bridging the technical and policy dimensions of urban planning, while emphasizing a people-centered approach to decision making.

This workshop, staged by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, CityNet, and UN-Habitat, took place from September 22nd-25th, 2014 and was specifically designed for urban practitioners and decision makers from rapidly growing contexts. The workshop offered new tools for sustainable planning and an opportunity to strategize for a new urban agenda.

01 City Profile presentation

02 Group exercise on shreet design



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TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SEOUL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

As a result of the MoU signing in 2014, CityNet conducted two trainings in collaboration with Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC).

Study for Streamlined and Replicable Climate Change Resilience

This program offered managerial-level public officials a unique opportunity to learn about Seoul's best practices in climate change. Participants also had the chance to share their experiences and knowledge of the field through "Action Learning" sessions facilitated by

Urban Management

This training provided participants with a comprehensive explanation of Seoul's urban management policies and best practices through in-depth discussions of topics such as safe and sustainable eco-cities. Participants were also able to discuss the challenges facing their cities and brainstorm solutions through the "Action Learning" methodology.

03 MoU signing ceremony with SHRDC

04 Participants of Climate Change Program from Makati and Sidoarjo



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CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INDICATORS

The Workshop on the SDGs in Barisal City was held from January 13th-15th, 2015 as a joint activity of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and Society for Development Studies (SDS). The basic objective of the workshop was to familiarize urban stakeholders about the proposed SDGs and develop an Asian perspective on them in order to capture the challenges of the developing world.

The three-day workshop was formally inaugurated by the Chief Executive Officer of Barisal City Corporation (BCC), Mr. Nikhil Chandro Das. The Director General of Society for Development Studies (SDS), Dr. Vinay D Lall, held a role as the key resource person to bring out the main objectives of the workshop and familiarized the participants with the issues to be examined.

A COURSE ON FINANCING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The Urban Infrastructure Financing Options workshop, organized together with Cities Development Initiative Asia (CDIA), was designed to help developing cities identify alternate financing products for their infrastructure investments.

As powers become increasingly decentralized, local governments are expected to shoulder greater responsibility for the financing of their infrastructure investments. However, as the pressure for more and better urban infrastructure intensifies, many cities lack the financial resources to respond. The Urban Infrastructure Financing Options workshop equipped city officials with an understanding of a spectrum of financing products to boost their cities' competitiveness and sustainability. The course focused on assisting local government officers to better understand the opportunities available for financing.

The course was followed by a Training of Trainers (ToT) program, designed to create a critical mass of trainers with the basic knowledge and skills to provide guidance on urban infrastructure financing to other cities and municipalities. Building on the success of July's Training of Trainers, CityNet and CDIA are excited to help our alumni conduct localized versions of the short course to city officials in their respective countries. The first was a bite-sized training conducted by the Development Strategy Institute (DSI) in Vietnam during a parallel session of the 32nd Executive Committee Meeting in Hue in November 2014.



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01 Facilitator, Sasank Vemuri, explains course objectives

02 Central monitoring room of Woomyunsan Tunnel

03 Site visit to Woomyunsan Tunnel, the first infrastructure project completed by Seoul Metropolitan Government using private financing



ALL FIVE NATIONAL CHAPTERS SUBMITTED PROJECT PROPOSALS TO THE SECRETARIAT IN 2014

National Chapter funding was first launched in 2010 to decentralize the work of the Secretariat by empowering our members to develop small-scale projects.

In 2014, there was a 25% increase in the National Chapter Project fund, allowing each National Chapter to apply for a maximum of US \$5,000. This year the fund was fully utilized by all five National Chapters.

National Chapter India improves its transport system

The India National Chapter submitted a proposal to improve the public transport system by addressing the missing links through a comprehensive research project. The study was designed to bring efficiency to the performance of Indian cities' transport systems, improve the quality of life for the cities' growing populations and build cities' economic competitiveness.

01 HUDCO researchers interview commuters outside local transport hubs

02 Citizens exit Hauz Khas station in New Delhi



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National Chapter Bangladesh develops Green Campus Initiative

The Bangladesh National Chapter project was implemented in Dhaka and called the *Green Campus Initiative through Climate and Disaster Resilient Activities in School*. It aims to teach students about the different aspects of climate change and disaster risk so that they can become responsive to the environment and their community.

National Chapter Sri Lanka refurbishes the Community Learning Center

The Sri Lanka National Chapter project refurbished the first floor of the existing community learning center. One of the goals of the project was to popularize the community-based learning center for children in poor urban communities. The center is managed by the Community Development Council.

Street lights for National Chapter Nepal

The Nepal National Chapter installed street lights in Putalibazar Municipality in order to improve the safety and security of the citizens. It is estimated that the street lights will directly benefit 1100 households and 6000 people.

Catfish Farming Project from the Indonesia National Chapter

The goal of the Indonesia National Chapter Project is to empower youth through catfish farming in order to increase their capabilities and well-being. In addition, this project provided opportunities to promote catfish farming, increase fishery products and reduce poverty.

- 03 Students participate in a mock earthquake drill
- 04 Solar power technology installed through the Bangladesh National Chapter
- 05 A rainwater harvesting technology installed at a Dhaka school
- 06 Catfish farming in Sidoarjo Regency, Indonesia



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Community Based Adaptation and Resiliency against Disasters (CBARAD) Project

The CBARAD project takes place in Iloilo, Philippines and has consisted of more than 70 activities which have been completed since April 2014. These activities include trainings, seminars, drills, workshops, facility improvements, and study visits.

The goal of this project is to devise effective community-level adaptation and resiliency schemes in the City of Iloilo and increase citizens' awareness about how to create a self-sustaining community in the event of a disaster, particularly in the case of floods.

01 Workshop on Early warning, weather hazards and tracking typhoons

02 Workshop on flood/creek management Yokohama

Through these activities, CBARAD has provided an orientation on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to over 2,100 people, supplied over 675 pieces of DRR equipment, and facilitated 12 local and international partnerships.



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“Indeed, this training is really of great help to me, especially for the daily activities in our Barangay. I've learned a lot from this training which has added to my knowledge and ... it is something I can be proud of. I've already used MS Excel during typhoon Hagupit in preparing our evacuation list for possible affected residents.”

Christine Jopson, Barangay Secretary
Balagbago



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03 'Dagoy Caravan'- Disaster education, Iloilo

04 Evacuation Drill assisted by Yokohama



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CITYNET Platform for Disaster Resiliency (CPDR)

The CPDR online course began in May 2014 and has provided training to DRR practitioners from 16 participating cities and organisations. During the course's final evaluation, participants gave highly positive reviews. Nearly 75% of the participants found the content and presentation easy to understand, informative, and interesting. More than half of the participants responded that the course excelled in all aspects. Responses to the course also revealed the needs and challenges facing participating CityNet members, which will be beneficial in identifying future projects. The platform for the course was jointly developed by Bangkok, Colombo, Makati, Yokohama and EMI.

Student Based Proactive and Sustainable Environmental Education Project

Two field-based workshops for students have been conducted through the Sustainable Education project: an Introductory Workshop (June 22nd) and a Field Study Workshop on Crow Island (September 6th) led by local environmental expert Ms. Ruvini Perera.

This project was designed to empower students to learn about and develop an appreciation for their natural surroundings, as well as provide a basis for understanding environmental issues. During these workshops, participants learned practical skills for environmental study including: species identification, temperature, wind rate, and humidity measurement, conducting interviews, and presenting observations.

The project was conducted in partnership with Tsurumi River Networking (TRnet) from Yokohama.

7th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar

As the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters threatens more communities, expanding awareness, city-to-city cooperation, and strategic planning are key factors in addressing risks and establishing disaster resilience. The seminar was organized with the intention of providing a venue for this kind of cooperation, featuring direct knowledge-sharing on DRR initiatives and engaging in-person learning through site-visits.

Over 35 participants from nine cities, one association, and two institutions engaged with one another at the meeting. Staff from the City of Yokohama's Crisis Management Office, Fire Department, and Waterworks Bureau also attended to share their best practices. The seminar paved the way to outline the plans of CityNet Disaster Cluster until 2017.

01 *Children in Colombo learn environment profiling with Mr. Yuji Abe from TRnet*



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Teacher Training for Early Childhood Education Project

Seventeen teachers from the municipalities of Madhyapur, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, and Kirtipur successfully completed a series of three workshops led by an expert on elementary education from Japan, and demonstrated their capacity to produce high-quality, creative, and engaging teaching materials following the training. The project also established an avenue for cultural exchange between schools in Hiroshima and the participating municipalities in Nepal.

CityNet Youth Japan (CYJ)

CityNet Youth Japan continues to work with CYO not only to promote CYO activities to the public but also to raise awareness on urban issues to high school and university students in Japan. The group composed of university students in Japan interested in development issues is developing their own programs and study visits in addition to supporting CYO events organised in Yokohama.

The Yokohama Office will also release an Annual Report in which you can find further details of their programs and activities.

02 Dr. Shin from Fukuyama Heisei University during mock teaching exercise

03 Sara Neupane from MuAN with children in Hiroshima during the exchange visit



CityNet's 32nd Executive Committee Meeting and back-to-back seminar was held from November 28th-30th with Hue City, Vietnam as the host.

Approximately 150 participants from member cities, associate members and partners attended the meeting as well as a series of seminars focusing on the future of sustainability in Asian cities.

CityNet's highest governing body was chaired by Mr. Yeonsik Yoo, Director General of the International Relations Bureau of the Seoul Metropolitan Government. An audit report for the year 2013 and 2014, the report on institutional and program activities for the year 2014, membership fees, reports on the Clusters, National Chapters, and the future plans of the Secretariat were among the matters discussed in the meeting. CityNet Secretary General Vijay Jagannathan also provided vision and direction for the upcoming year.

In the meeting, a total of eight new members were admitted to the network; three municipalities, four associate members, and the first corporate member.

One of the most valuable outcomes of this year's Executive Committee Meeting was the idea proposed by CityNet Secretary General Vijay Jagannathan on CityNet's future vision. He gathered support from the Executive Committee and CityNet members to develop an Asian perspective on sustainable urbanization for Habitat III scheduled to be held in 2016. The uniqueness of the Asian experience is the speed and scale of change. According to Mr. Jagannathan, the Asian perspective highlights the fact that there is no shortage of innovation and cultural creativity fuelled by the high energy of a large, growing youth population. This has been demonstrated through CityNet members across the region.

01 Mayor of Hue, Nguyen Van Thanh

02 Traditional dance performance from Hue City

03 Opening Forum on the future of sustainability



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Following the meeting, the two-day Back-to-Back Seminar was a medium for all participants to learn and exchange knowledge and experience in addressing various ongoing urban challenges facing their cities.

On the first day, Microsoft and two of its partners (Ave Point and Crimson Logic) presented two sessions on the CityNext initiative, highlighting the technological solutions for sustainable cities in Asia. Mr. Stefan Sjoestrom, Vice President, Microsoft Public Sector, Asia presented the results of a survey that was done in partnership with CityNet on the use of Cloud Computing in CityNet member cities. Green Technology Center—Korea, presented examples of Green Technology in practice and showed successes of city-to-city cooperation using Green Technology.

The second day of the seminar kicked off with the CDIA Urban Infrastructure Financing Options seminar in Vietnamese with a parallel session led by the Korea Transport Institute on smart urban transportation.

Member cities had a chance to present posters highlighting their city's projects and to meet representatives from other CityNet members during the networking session and exhibition.

04 32nd Executive Committee Meeting

05 MoU between CityNet and the next Executive Committee Meeting host, Sidoarjo

06 CityNet member cities showcase their best practices in the Exhibition Center

Apart from regular publications, namely the e-newsletter and bi-annual magazine, CityVoices, CityNet has worked together with several other organisations and corporations to publish reports.

Asian Sanitation Database

CityNet, UN-Habitat, and the Asian Development Bank prepared the first Asian Sanitation Data Book in 2008 to draw attention to the prevalence of substandard sanitation and its associated health and environmental concerns. The 2013 edition utilizes data from 13 CityNet members to review what progress has been made, identify persistent bottlenecks and discover ways to move beyond deadlock as we near the original time-horizon of the Millennium Development Goals.

Cloud Computing System Survey

The so-called Smart City represents the next stage in the process of urbanisation for many Asian cities. The smart city concept implies enhanced efficiency based on the intelligent management of resources and active citizen participation and engagement. A crucial enabler for the attainment of smart city status is Cloud Computing. CityNet and Microsoft undertook a study on the current and potential use of cloud computing by Asian cities and invited member cities to take part in a short online survey. According to the survey, only 22.2% of Asian cities have adopted cloud computing to a moderate or extensive degree. However, this figure is projected to grow rapidly over the next three years, more than doubling to 46.9%.

Monthly Newsletter

From May 2014, the CityNet Newsletter made the move from bi-monthly to monthly. Ten volumes have been published in 2014. This has enabled the CityNet Secretariat to increase the flow of information across its network. The CityNet newsletter provides regular updates to its members about various activities and announcements.

“This is the first time I have seen a survey done around Cloud and its applicability to cities. It debunks some of the common misconceptions around Cloud, such as high security risks and costs.”

Vijay Jagannathan
CityNet Secretary General



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01 Asian Sanitation Data Book 2013

02 CityNet published two CityVoices focusing on 'The future of Sustainability in Asian Cities' and 'Building Urban Resilience: Partner Voices'.

LOOKING FORWARD



After such an eventful year, the CityNet Secretariat looks forward to expanding its activities in 2015 and encouraging increased member participation. The network's vision and mission can only be achieved through the backbone of CityNet--our proactive members.

Members' capacity is the key to succeeding in our mission to tackle urban challenges. For 2015, a series of capacity building activities and workshops have been planned with a number of partners covering key urban issues including disaster management, flood management, affordable housing, infrastructure financing and urban planning.

In addition, as the largest network of urban stakeholders in the Asia Pacific, it is important that our voice is heard on the global stage. Remaining relevant and active on a global level is crucial to our goal of bringing local-level voices to global development discussions. These discussions can be channelled through advocacy by working with valued partners.

For more information on any of these programs or projects, please check the CityNet website at www.citynet-ap.org or contact the Secretariat at info@citynet-ap.org. The Secretariat team looks forward to hearing from you!