



9TH CITYNET CONGRESS
20TH - 23RD SEPTEMBER 2022
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



Vijay Jagannathan
Vision Statement for CityNet

I have had the privilege of leading Citynet since 2013, when the network moved from Yokohama to Seoul. During this period the urban agenda changed dramatically, with climate change coming front and center among the many challenges our mayors in the Asia-Pacific region face today. Increased frequency of natural disasters disrupted lives and livelihoods. Added to these systemic challenges, during my current term in office, the COVID pandemic disrupted lives and livelihoods across the network in unimaginable ways.

Our city leaders have admirably tackled the resultant health, economic and social crises as they emerged, and we in the Citynet Secretariat supported them as much as we could. However, our effectiveness was constrained by worldwide COVID travel restrictions, which made virtually connecting with our network the only practical mode of contact for almost two and a half of my past term in office.

The situation today is finally coming back to normal. We are excited to have the next Citynet Congress as an in-person event in Kuala Lumpur in September 2022, and we will be welcoming many newly elected city leaders who have joined the network. There is an expectation among Citynet members that the Secretary General with support from the Secretariat will design and launch an ambitious program of knowledge sharing and professional training support to strengthen institutional capacity and contribute to local Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I believe I am best qualified to meet the above expectations. My candidature is also in response to the unfinished business Citynet members have faced in the past few years. These emerging priorities include sharing experiences on how to bridge the massive service gaps in basic infrastructure, addressing the chronic problems caused by lack of affordable housing, environmental degradation because of traffic congestion, air and water pollution, and emerging risks of disasters caused by climate change and pandemics.

The next Secretary General should also have the credibility to leverage donor interest in supporting Citynet members mainstream climate mitigation and climate adaptation strategies. I am well-versed on the many ways by which the climate change



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narrative can be integrated with our urban development agenda. This knowledge is important because since the Paris Climate Accord of 2015, the global community has recognized the important role cities play in reaching climate goals: both in decarbonizing the local economy and building community resilience to climate and natural disasters. Climate finance is an important untapped source for many of our members.

My 50 plus years of experience positions me well to lead the network in engaging with each other and potential donors to develop localized solutions. If elected I will put every effort to inspire our talented and dedicated Citynet staff based in Seoul and Yokohama to greater heights, while benefiting from leadership and guidance from Citynet President, Mayor Oh of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and of course the valuable support from our members and associate members throughout the Citynet network.