



I. The 12th Da Nang Urban Development Forum

Da Nang City hosted the **12th Da Nang Urban Development Forum** at Da Nang City Hall from 15th to 17th January 2024, in cooperation with the City of Yokohama. Since signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Da Nang City in 2013, the City of Yokohama has been supporting Da Nang City to mitigate urban environmental issues through Japanese techniques and technologies from its local enterprises. The aim of the Forum is to share visions and action plans for promoting sustainable development, and this is the first time the event has been held there in four years.

The three-day forum was comprised of five key activities: thematic sessions, a business matching seminar, a courtesy call between Da Nang City People's Committee and the City of Yokohama, the main forum and lastly site visits in Da Nang. The thematic sessions covered four topics: **eco industrial parks**, **solid waste management**, **smart city development**, and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/ Voluntary Loal Review (VLR)**, showcasing best practices, experiences and recommendations from Japanese organizations and enterprises. The business matching seminar was hosted by the Yokohama Urban Solution Alliance (YUSA), Young Business Association (YBA), and a Public Private Partnership platform established by the Ministry of Environment Japan (JPRSI), with the aim of strengthening public-private partnership for urban development projects in Da Nang City. A courtesy call took place between the Chairman of Da Nang City People's Committee (DPC) and the Director General of the International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama, involving various departments of Da Nang and Japanese organizations and enterprises to facilitate discussions and foster relationships between the two cities. The main forum featured keynote speeches from

international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank, and results from the previous thematic sessions were presented with active discussions among participants. Additionally, the program concluded with the site visits in Da Nang for around twenty delegates and representatives of private enterprises from Yokohama. They explored Da Nang’s current railway station and the planned relocation area, Lien Chieu Port area which is under development, the Khanh Son landfill site, and waste collection/treatment areas around the landfill site.



Visiting Da Nang’s Current Railway Station



Visiting Lien Chieu Port Development Area

Forum Highlights

i. Thematic Sessions

On January 15th, thematic sessions on eco industrial parks, solid waste management, smart city development and SDGs/VLR were conducted. Each session attracted an average of 40 participants, including key departments from Da Nang City, Japanese organizations, and private enterprises from Yokohama. The thematic session on eco industrial parks featured Da Nang City’s initiatives to achieve the goal of developing two to three eco industrial parks by 2030, along with the City of Yokohama’s proposals on Carbon Management Systems (CMS) and water quality management. Subsequently, the solid waste management session showcased the best practices and experiences of the JICA partnership project and City of Yokohama, outlining the way toward a cleaner city involving administration, enterprises, and citizens. The smart city development session featured the proposals of energy saving initiatives and smart traffic control using Japanese technologies by private enterprises from Yokohama, aligning with Da Nang City’s goal of building a smart city. The final SDGs/VLR session featured with a keynote address by **Mr. Curt Garrigan from UNESCAP** (United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific), exploring the concept of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) and their benefits. **Ms. Akiko Yamakoshi from CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO)** provided valuable insights into Yokohama’s VLR formulation and its instrumental support in the implementation of Da Nang’s VLR. Following this, the session also featured a presentation by the Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) of Da Nang City highlighting the progress of Da Nang’s VLR. Additionally, representatives from relevant departments in Da Nang City addressed the city’s ongoing efforts to attain SDGs and pursue decarbonization. Each thematic session concluded with engaging discussions among the participants.



Participants from City of Yokohama, Japanese organizations, and private enterprises



Presenting initiatives from relevant departments of Da Nang City



Presentation about VLR by Mr. Curt Garrigan, UNESCAP

ii. Main Forum

The main forum took place on the afternoon of January 16th, showcasing keynote speeches from ADB and the World Bank along with reports on the outcomes of the four thematic sessions held on January 15th. The forum was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Da Nang City People’s Committee, the Director General of the International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama, and an average of 50 participants, including representatives from various departments in Da Nang, international organizations, and the City of Yokohama as well as agencies and private enterprises from Yokohama. **Mr. Le Quang Nam, Vice Chairman of the Da Nang City People’s Committee** delivered an opening speech highlighting the significance of the 12th Da Nang Urban Development Forum as a crucial platform for interaction between Da Nang City and the City of Yokohama. He expressed his anticipation for future demonstration and research proposals, focusing on concrete solutions for smart city development, in addition to further efforts in the four thematic sectors. Subsequently, **Mr. Toru Hashimoto, Director General of the International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama**, also gave an opening speech, emphasizing the City of Yokohama’s commitment to promoting knowledge sharing in urban development and resolving urban issues in Da Nang through public-private collaboration. He expressed the City of Yokohama’s intention to discuss and confirm the strategies for promoting demonstrations and implementations in the future, concluding by adding that he was looking forward to Da Nang City’s efforts at the upcoming Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC) scheduled for October this year.



Opening Speech by Director General of the International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama



Commenting from Vice Chairman of Da Nang City People’s Committee



Participants in the main forum

Following the opening speeches, **Ms. Phuong Anh from the World Bank** and **Mr. Alex from ADB** addressed the keynote speeches expressing their support and expectations for city-to-city collaboration in urban development. Subsequently, **Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi, the City of Yokohama**, reported the outcomes of the thematic sessions on eco industrial parks and smart city development, while **Mr. Akira Suzuki, also from the City of Yokohama**, reported on the solid waste management session. **Mr. Curt Garrigan, Chief of the Economic Affairs Session at UNESCAP**, shared insights on cities worldwide building VLR in sustainable development. Following this, **Mr. Le Minh Tuong from Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) in Da Nang**, reported the results of SDGs/VLR thematic session. Each report from the representatives was followed by comments and feedback from the participants. The main forum concluded successfully with closing remarks from both city leaders and a group photo session.

Yokohama will continue to promote public-private cooperation to help realize smart urban development and promote SDGs initiative in Da Nang.



II. Peace awareness event in Yokohama

The City of Yokohama is engaged in initiatives to think about peace with the young people who will become leaders of the next generation. On December 2, 2023 a peace awareness event was held at Yokohama City Hall in the form of an open classroom-style public talk with the participation of **nine local junior high school students** under the theme of "what we can do to help achieve peace – from ideas to action."



The lecturer, **Mr. Takao Toda**, who has experience from many years of direct involvement in the field of international cooperation at JICA, said that "By taking a step forward, something will start to change. The world expands through connections with others, and the brightness increases with things that never diminish when shared like love, thoughts, wisdom, and so on. The question you must keep asking is what future world do you want to create? I believe that if you keep asking these questions, the world that the 2 billion children of today will see when they grow up will definitely be different from the world of today. Moreover, guest speaker **Ms. Marie Louise Towari**, who experienced the genocide in Rwanda and is now working in Japan to support education, said that "Education and the kindness of people saved me. Education is the door to the future. I hope that all of you, who have unlimited possibilities, will open that door and become people who can make the whole world smile." One of the participating students said, "In order to create a good future, each of us needs to know and face the issues on the earth. First of all, I want to know the issues and take action to solve them."

It is not enough for us to enjoy the peace we have to reach a peaceful future; we must contemplate what it means to practice peace. Check out the event report, including the full video (in Japanese), on the city [website](#), and join us in thinking about what each of us can do today for a peaceful world tomorrow.



III. Signing of MOU for Educational Collaboration on SDGs among Schools

CYO, in cooperation with the City of Yokohama, has been conducting exchange meetings between schools in CityNet member cities as part of the SDGs Promotion Program for the next generation. The aim of the project is to encourage students to approach the SDGs as part of their daily lives and challenge them to take the lead on sustainable action. Based on the results of past exchange programs, Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School and Ulaanbaatar 23rd School, which have continued exchange since 2022, have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for educational collaboration on the SDGs on March 12, 2023. Under the MOU, the two schools agreed to further develop cooperation in educational activities related to the SDGs and to promote ongoing cooperation by establishing a communication system among schools and holding exchange meetings among students to share knowledge, issues, and opinions on the SDGs over the medium and long term.



We will continue to promote these initiatives with the aim of encouraging awareness of the need to take action to realize a sustainable world by 2030, and disseminate them to CityNet member cities with the aim of promoting the SDGs in overseas cities.

International Organizations Center 6F, Pacifico Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato Mirai Nishi-Ku, Yokohama, JAPAN 220-0012
TEL: +81-45-221-1214
E-mail: citynetyokohama@gmail.com



CITYNET Yokohama Project Office
supports the SDGs.