Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

Climate change effects all of us and has become an issue that many local authorities are now having to face. With that thought in mind, this issue of eNews takes a look at a number of stories focusing on climate change and how cities in Asia can better prepare themselves for when the worst happens.

In this issue you will find an account of CITYNET’s secondment staff talking about his city’s reaction to the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. CITYNET staff also attended a recent conference looking at what the triple natural disasters in Japan could mean for the future and the impact they have had on disaster management. No one can ever really predict when a disaster will strike, but more cities are now realising that they have to be ready.

With the climate change seminar in Dhaka not too far away, the theme of climate change is now more relevant than ever. So please take your time to read this issue of eNews which looks at climate change and beyond, focusing on a wide number of environmental issues.

Best wishes,
CITYNET Secretariat

CITYNET News & Events

Features

New Asia-Pacific Perspectives towards Rio +20: Implications of the East Japan Disasters

CITYNET would like to thank members who contributed support to the great east Japan disasters. The City of Yokohama reported receiving donations and letters from around the world.

As of 28 July, Yokohama collected approximately 438 million yen (ca.5,718,760 USD). 400 million yen was sent to the Japanese Red Cross and 15 million yen was used to purchase necessary goods for the disaster area. Thanks to your generosity, Yokohama Mayor Fumiko Hayashi was able to make a donation directly to Mayor Okuyama of Sendai which was severely affected by the disaster. As the process of rebuilding is only just beginning, the City of Yokohama has extended the donation period to 15 September 2011. Find out more here.
Program Director of CITYNET, Bernadia I. Tjandradewi PhD joined the Summary Session of ISAP together with representatives from different stakeholders; Cooperation at the city level was emphasised at the International Cooperation on Low Carbon Cities side-event where CITYNET was also presented (bottom photos).

The 3rd International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) held in Yokohama in July 2011 highlighted the implications of the East Japan triple disasters towards Rio+20 where more than 850 people took part. Organised by IGES, UNESCAP and other partners, the Forum adopted the Chair’s Summary and looked at Japan’s future energy mix which has currently more than 30 percent depending on nuclear energy. Furthermore, more effort should be made to build resilient societies through a decentralised system on risk reduction, relief and recovery. The role of local governments and community-based approaches were also considered.

The issue on governance to promote sustainable development was emphasised in which greater attention must be paid to horizontal and vertical integration, access to information and meaningful public participation in the policy decision making process. The recent accident in Japan also revealed the importance of counting the environmental and social costs which have not been fully included in the existing system. Green economy was discussed in which technology transfer and application and education improvement were emphasised. The Forum was closed with the needs to rethink of sustainable development as the integration of three pillars, social, environment and economical aspects, and should not be seen as a trade off on one another.

As part of ISAP, the meeting International Cooperation for Realising Low Carbon Cities in Asia and the Pacific meeting was held and attended by Moritoshi Sato, Assistant Secretary-General and Bernadia I. Tjandradewi PhD, Programme Director of CITYNET attended the meeting. Other participants were the representatives of various cities (Yokohama, Kitakyushu, Surabaya, Bangkok), academic and research institutions in Japan. In her presentation, Bernadia briefly shared CITYNET’s intercity cooperation activities particularly in promoting low-carbon city development. The meeting concluded with the intention of participating cities and institutions to cooperate together. IGES and CITYNET would collaborate for designing the training and capacity building programme for members of CITYNET as well as for the ASEAN ESC (Environmentally Sustainable Cities) Model Cities of IGES.


**Training in Customer Service Improvement for Local Water Authorities**

During the Evaluation Session, the trainees had the chance to visit the Secretariat and interact with colleagues at CITYNET.

Sharing innovations and skills in customer service quality was the focus of the 2011 Yokohama Waterworks Bureau (YWWB) Training Programme which took place from 3 - 16 July in Yokohama. Participants from CITYNET member cities Ho Chi Minh, Hue and Shanghai took part in the programme and shared the current challenges their cities are facing - including low public awareness on methods to save water.

Overall, trainees spent a great deal of time learning about methods employed in Yokohama to better communicate and create awareness in customers. For example, they learned the importance of public promotion and how to efficiently run the museum as a water education measure and call centre to collect the customers’ complaints and feedback. Other topics included water utility management, treatment and distribution, measures for non-revenue water reduction, public relations and human resource management among others.

CITYNET has been co-organising the YWWB Training Programme since 1999 which has attracted more than 300 trainees including water experts from overseas organisations representing 27 countries and regions. The annual course consists of a range of training modules including field trips, laboratory study and presentations.

Dr. Wenura Singarachchi, CITYNET Secondment Staff seconded by Galle, Sri Lanka was also able to attend one of the training sessions, on the uniquely Japanese ‘Kaizen’ management method – which YWWB uses to incrementally improve itself through cooperation and brainstorming of its staff. The participants also visited the customer call centre, evaluated leakage prevention work, and participated in many other theoretical discussions and practical, on-site activities.

A key element of the training is the presentation of action plans by the participants to show how they will use the information in their cities upon their return.

“I want my city to understand the methods to improve customer satisfaction,” said Ms. Wenqian Qin from Shanghai. “I learned a lot of information about a wide-range of topics such as customer service or non-revenue water leaks. I found the most interesting part to be about the engineering as I know little about this topic and now I can go back to my city to tell them, compare and find the advantages.” Ms. Qin went on the say that Yokohama and Shanghai have a strong relationship and she is looking forward to continued communication. Her first plan of action is to help design a mascot as inspiration she obtained from YWWB to strengthen the image of waterworks within her city as well as further promotion of Shanghai’s water supply history, water quality and purification process.

Mr. Ho Dang Xuan Lam from Hue plans to work on the first water museum in Vietnam at Van Nien Plant as well as to make an animated film for promotional purposes. In Ho Chi Minh City, Ms. Do Thi Thanh Long plans to help design a mascot as an inspiration she obtained from YWWB. Her second plan of action is to help design a water station to strengthen the image of waterworks within her city as well as further promotion of Ho Chi Minh City’s water supply history, water quality and purification process.

A key element of the training is the presentation of action plans by the participants to show how they will use the information in their cities upon their return.
Minh, Mr. Ly Buu Nghia highlighted plans to install drinking water taps to serve the community and local schools and the development of a guide on using water more efficiently.

CITYNET would like to thank YWWB for their efforts as well as those of the trainees. We look forward to seeing future developments and the impacts of their action plans.

Learning from the 2004 Sri Lanka Tsunami - Galle’s Experience

Galle has transformed its city, from one of the most-damaged cities to more attractive city in Sri Lanka.

The new secondment staff, Dr. Wenura Singarachchi from Sri Lanka, gave a presentation to the public in Yokohama on the impact and disaster management in the aftermath of tsunami that hit Sri Lanka in 2004.

Dr. Wenura said at that time the country was largely unprepared for a natural disaster of that scale. The tsunami claimed 30,800 lives, more than 5,000 went missing and also displaced more than 15,400 refugees. His presentation looked at the immediate actions that the Galle municipal council, local community, donor agencies and NGOs took in order to help victims and to prevent the threat of an epidemic. He spoke about the challenges and basic steps the city had to take in order to manage such a catastrophe. This included: forming an emergency management committee, finding safe drinking water and food supply, sanitation and garbage disposal and the long term management of human resettlement.

Speaking about his personal experience, he said: “It was an unbelievable state of sudden disaster where almost all the people were affected. There was a huge flow of dead bodies, victims, refugees and internally displaced people. We had to respond in a very short period of time with limited resource and man power without any preparedness.”

If you would like to receive a copy of his presentation on what local authorities need to consider when faced with a tsunami, please send an email to: communication@citynet-ap.org

YOKE Summer 100 Interns

44th EAROPH Regional Conference
Managing Urban Growth: Challenges for Small Cities
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
November 9 - 10, 2011

Urban Forum 2011: Financing Future Cities
Manila, the Philippines
November 15 - 17, 2011
Organiser: ADB

Asia Water Summit
Jakarta, Indonesia
November 17 - 18, 2011

World Toilet Day
Haikou, Hainan
November 22 - 25, 2011

The 28th session of CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting
Dhaka, Bangladesh
November 26, 2011

International Seminar on Climate Change and the Role of Local Government
Dhaka, Bangladesh
November 27-28, 2011
Co-organiser: Dhaka City (DCC), CLAIR, UNESCAP
The seminar will help cities/local governments prepare for planning their future - where economic growth is spurred with low GHGs emissions and at the same time building resilient cities. It will also focus on how they should engage other actors to meet their targets that goes beyond the temporal scale of a mayor’s term.

Policy Dialogue on Inclusive Cities
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Date (TBD)
Co-organisers: Seoul Metropolitan Government, ACHR, Asian Bridge

Send us your news and events
Intern students from various universities in Japan received a brief explanation on CITYNET and posed with staff at the CITYNET Secretariat.

This summer, the secretariat was visited by several interns from Japanese universities who are part of YOKE’s 100 Interns scheme. The interns included Mrs. Yoko Takeda who interned at CITYNET Secretariat in August. Another seven interns who were on placements at other international organisations such as FAO, IUC, UNU-IAS, YOKE and JICA through YOKE visited the Secretariat to learn more about CITYNET and its activities. YOKE (Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges) has been an Associate Member of CITYNET since 1999 and organises a 100 hour internship programme between the universities and the international organisations in Yokohama every year. University students took this opportunity to talk with secretariat staff and expand their knowledge about the current situation of the cities and urban challenges in the Asia Pacific.

Climate Change Seminar: Getting Ready for Dhaka

Dates for the upcoming Seminar on Climate Change and the Role of Local Government in Dhaka, Bangladesh, have now been confirmed and the seminar will take place between the 27-28 November 2011. The seminar will be held in conjunction with the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Executive Committee of CITYNET. For more details, please see the website of CITYNET. If you would like to participate, please register by 28 October 2011.

- AUGUST -
Emerging Issues in Safe and Sustainable Mobility for Older People
Washington DC, USA
August 30 - September 1, 2011
The conference will focus on emerging issues, research implementation, and programmes related to safe and sustainable methods to enhance the mobility of older people.

- SEPTEMBER -
2nd Annual Smart Grids Smart Cities Conference
Lisbon, Portugal
September 13 - 14, 2011
Industry leaders explain how cities around the world are dealing with the increasing demand for power and how they are channeling expertise into solutions that are more energy efficient and sustainable.

Effective Solutions for Green Urban Transport
Brussels, Belgium
September 13, 2011

Asia Pacific Cycle Congress
Brisbane, Australia
September 18 - 21, 2011

Sustainable Transport and Mobility 2011
Johannesburg, South Africa
September 20 - 21, 2011

Changing Cities - Linking Global Knowledge to Local Action
Honolulu, Hawaii USA
September 26 - 28, 2011
The seminar will exchange views on knowledge dissemination as a critical tool for managing urban development, especially in the cities and mega-regions of Asia.

- OCTOBER -
European Transport Conference
Glasgow, Scotland UK
October 10 - 12, 2011
This is a key annual event where European transport practitioners and researchers come together to keep up to date with policy issues, research findings and the best practices across a broad spectrum of transport relates issues. It attracts some 400 delegates from more than 30 countries.
YPORT goes International

The City of Yokohama, the presidency city of CITYNET, started its international contribution project, "YPORT: Yokohama Partnership of Resources and Technologies." They plan to offer international technical cooperation based on public-private partnership to CITYNET members and many other cities. The target areas are urban development, water and environment, and measures to global warming prevention. Official letters and leaflets introducing YPORT have already been sent out to CITYNET members.

For details, please see: www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/seisaku/kyoso/yport/yport-e/

Clusters Update

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biogas project in Negombo successfully completed

The Negombo biogas project in Sri Lanka has now been completed. The aim of the project was to install biogas units to provide a sustainable solution to municipal waste and to introduce alternative energy as a solution to energy problems.

The project has been a success and the government has decided to expand the programme on a city level. The outcomes of the project included: decreasing the amount of methane gas emitted into the air, reducing environmental pollution and lowering the municipal cost of managing waste. One of the major achievements of the project was the increase of community awareness about the value of waste by turning it into a form of energy.

Other significant lessons learnt of this short-term project were the co-benefits of environmental improvement, strong partnership between local government, community and NGO (HELP-O), and long-term learning process through city-to-city cooperation as Negombo was able to learn from Phnom Penh and other cities.

The project was carried out as part of PURSUE C2C (Partners United for Realising a Sustainable Urban Environment through City-to-City Cooperation). The project was supported by French Government and UNITAR as our effort to translate training into local actions. The project was developed as the outcomes of the CIFAL Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) training course a joint effort of CITYNET, UNITAR, Kuala Lumpur and Veolia Environment.

DISASTER

Learning from Disaster

The next issue of CityVoices will focus on disaster management and will include articles on the following: Yokohama disaster planning in action, Habitat for Humanity Japan and their disaster relief efforts across Asia including Tohoku, climate change (Changwan and ecomobility) and a look at Yangon, Myanmar and capacity building for more disaster resilient houses. There is also a case study looking at rebuilding communities after the Tohoku disaster.
Submissions are now being accepted for the winter issue of CityVoices Magazine

Theme: Planning & Infrastructure

Members (especially INFRA members) and partners are encouraged to share stories, innovative and practical policies, activities and suggestions for achieving better infrastructure in our cities. The Asia-Pacific region can take the lead in sharing experiences and knowledge which can help us to better deal with the challenges ahead. CityVoices is your venue to weigh in on issues related to infrastructure and city planning.

Tell us your story.

Submissions will be accepted until January of 2012. For more information, please contact communication(at)citynet-ap.org

Makati Produces Video on the MDGs

Makati prepared the short-video on MDGs for CITYNET members and highlighted the challenges faced by Asian cities in meeting the MDGs. To view, please click here.

Satellite Office

CITYNET Secretariat has not received any update from the Municipal Corporation of Great Mumbai (MCGM) - the host city of the satellite office.

National Chapter Update

Nepal

Following on from the completed school sanitation in Tansen, Nepal, the National Chapter in Nepal has sent out a questionnaire to Tansen municipality. The project has seen the installation of water and first sanitation facilities for girls along with training for students and parents to raise their level of awareness. Many parents do not even have toilets at home and use open fields for defecation. The training has made both the parents and students aware about basic health and hygiene. The school accommodates 120 students mostly marginalised and the poor.

A new pilot biogas slaughterhouse project in Gulariya will soon be going ahead. The major source of income in the area is the animal and vegetable market known as Haat Bazaar. However, majority of the slaughter houses are not well run. So the project aims to reduce the amount of waste produced by the slaughterhouse such as animal dung, reuse the waste to generate cooking gas and to ensure the waste management of the slaughter house will be done in an environmentally friendly way. The project also hopes to generate more employment in the local area.

Both projects are jointly funded by CITYNET and the participating cities to help promote the CITYNET National Chapter of Nepal among their constituents.

CITYNET Secretariat

Staff Changes

Sonya Poller has spent an eventful and enjoyable two and a half years as the Communications and Information Officer at CITYNET. During this time Sonya has worked on developing and upgrading the CityVoices magazine, the CITYNET website, e-news, and a host of publications.

http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=46eafbdf5d128e80923a602fd&id=db24e09935
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I am so grateful for the time I spent at CITYNET, I experienced and learned so much from my peers and talking to members. I loved living in Yokohama and it provided a lot of opportunities for me. Most of all I was glad to meet so many members face-to-face and listen to ideas and perspectives. Travelling to Suwon and Dhaka were definite highlights of my career. In Suwon, I learned about the importance and benefits of green purchasing and based on the outcomes of our Suwon’s conference we changed our policy at CITYNET for all our publications. In Dhaka I was able to see firsthand the challenges the city is facing with a positive attitude. It inspired me a great deal.

Sonya looks forward to working with CITYNET members on CityVoices - she encourages all members to share their stories so that more people can gain understanding and guidance. Future plans include more travel throughout Asia and an extended stay in her home country of Canada. “A huge thank you to all my colleagues at CITYNET and to all of the dear friends I have made along the way. I sincerely wish you the best and I hope to meet you again soon!”

Arshad Baharudin, from Brunei Darussalam, joined CITYNET in 2009 after completing his PhD at Hokkaido University. Starting as the project and communications associate and later on as programme officer, he oversaw the Infra cluster and worked on the early editions of eNews. Eventually, he took on added responsibilities in CITYNET’s capacity building activities, particularly in managing the flagship CIFAL Kuala Lumpur/ KLTRC training workshops. His work in the Infra cluster looked at improving transportation, urban planning and the built environment. As part of the C2C programme, he visited Palembang in Indonesia and helped to monitor the city’s links with Seoul, leading to technology transfer and an overhaul of the city’s bus system.

Talking about his time at CITYNET, Arshad said: “I’ve had a very interesting and educational time at CITYNET. I don’t regret it for a bit. There are not many opportunities to work in this kind of job in Japan. I’m lucky to have worked here.” Arshad will be working for Mitsubishi Corp. as a Program Coordinator at the Natural Gas business unit.

CITYNET would like to wish both Sonya and Arshad the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Introducing CITYNET’s New Staff

Nargis Ahmad

Nargis Ahmad is the new Communications and Information Officer for CITYNET. She is taking over from Sonya and will be responsible for all aspects of communications including: eNews, publications and updating the website. Nargis, from London, previously worked as a freelance journalist writing for the Daily Telegraph and Independent newspapers. In addition to this, she also has many years of experience of working with local authorities in the UK. This involved communications, community based project management and policy development.

Dr Wenura Singarachchi

CITYNET would also like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Wenura Singarachchi, the first secondment staff member from Sri Lanka. He has trained as a medical doctor and worked in the public health sector in Sri Lanka for 7 years. Working in the public health field, he has worked in child health, expanding the immunisation programme and the control of communicable diseases. He also worked in a similar role for Galle city, an area which was heavily affected by the tsunami of 2004. CITYNET has offered a secondment staff programme to Galle city and Dr Wenura has come to Japan to learn about programmes and projects in Japan that could help his home city. His primary work will focus on sanitation programmes, climate change and achieving the MDGs.
Dr Wenura said: “This is a good experience for me to get some international experience and new ideas, I hope CITYNET is a good opportunity for C2C cooperation among various cities and organisations in the world.”

Choi Han Chul
Choi Han Chul graduated at the department of taxation in the University of Seoul in 1991 and has worked as a tax officer at Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) until 2011. He achieved a Masters Law degree in Taxation at School of Law in the University of Denver in 2006. About joining CITYNET as the Institutional Development Officer, Choi said: “I wanted to share my experience in taxation with members, so I applied to CITYNET. In addition, my role is to facilitate the relocation of CITYNET to Seoul.” Choi will also be the main contact with the SMG and he had the following message for CITYNET members: “Hello to every member of CITYNET. You have made a lot of contributions to CITYNET. I hope more members will actively participate in the various activities of CITYNET to solve the problems effectively and cooperate with one another in the future.”

CITYNET Youth Japan
CITYNET Youth Japan (CYJ) frequently hosts workshops on international themes. In the last few months they have explored volunteering in Tohoku, child labour and fair trade. This month they hosted a workshop on the 18th August looking at education in developing countries. They were visited by Yumi Tamaki, who is the principal of You & Me International School in a rural village called Gazipur in Bangladesh. The school was established some years ago by Yumi, an English teacher from Japan, and Lina who is from Bangladesh. They established the primary school which has more than 100 students.

As part of the workshop, Yumi spoke about Bangladesh, the reason why she went there and why she wanted to support people in that country. The workshop helped students to learn more about the education system in Bangladesh. Last year, CYJ sponsored two children from the school to help students from poor backgrounds get an education even though they wouldn’t normally be able to afford one. The students were impressed by Yumi’s dedication to primary education and one of the students, Yuka, said, “I was impressed by her power and that she established the school in a rural area.” This year, CYJ are also going to sell bags made by the mothers group at Yokohama International festival at ‘Zou no hana park’ on October 22 and 23.

Please contact youth_japan@citynet-ap.org or visit: CITYNET Youth Japan

Partner News & Events

SUTP Asia Project Update
The Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Asia is jointly implemented by the Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), CITYNET, UNESCAP, and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). CITYNET has agreed to provide updates.

GIZ at the “Cities for Mobility” World Congress, Stuttgart
The 5th World Congress of Cities for Mobility under the title “Urban Mobility and the Social Space Challenge” took place on July 3-5, 2011 in Stuttgart (Germany). The event focused on the linkage between mobility policies in cities and urban planning. The 5th World Congress of Cities for Mobility attracted policy and decision-makers, engineers, traffic and urban planners, energy experts and specialists in the field of development cooperation. GIZ, as a partner of CfM, played an active role during the event with participation and contributions to the poster exhibition, the interactive workshop on “Active Travel” and the contact forum.

GIZ-SUTP and IUT conducted a 5-Day training course on Public Transport in Goa from 11-15 July
Together with the Institute of Urban Transport (IUT), GIZ - SUTP conducted a 5-day intensive training course covering various aspects of public transport planning and provision in Goa recently. The course, held from 11th-15th July, attracted 30 participants from all parts of India and various organisations like state bus transport corporations, traffic police, urban development authorities, urban rail companies, etc. The course spanned over 5 days and covered a whole variety of issues ranging from bus and rail planning, financing and institutions for public transport to social and environmental impacts of public transport, pricing services, benchmarking and performance measurement and marketing and communications strategies.

Promotion of Cycling in Germany: National Cycling Plans

Germany's planning efforts to promote cycling as part of a sustainable transport policy can be seen in the "National Cycling Plan 2002-2012", adopted by the government in 2002. In 2002, cycling in Germany had a modal share of 9%. By 2008, 10% of all journeys nationwide were being made on a bicycle. The significance of bicycles in transport has increased during the period 2002-2008: bicycles enjoyed the largest growth of any mode of transport (17%). The development of cycling in recent years is further examined in two studies: Mobility in Germany 2008 by DLR and INFAS and Mobilität in Städten - SrV 2008 by TU Dresden.

Module 4e: Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Spanish reviewed

The transport sector also benefits from the development of new technologies. The so-called Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) enables safer, affordable and environmentally friendly transport systems. The objective of this module is to display to decision makers the various advantages of different ITS measures and how it could be implemented in their cities urban transport systems for best outcomes. The Spanish version of this module has been reviewed and uploaded.

New GIZ project on Transport Demand Management and Climate Change kicked-off in Beijing

On 3rd August 2011, the city of Beijing and GIZ officially launched a new Sino-German project on sustainable urban transport. The project "Transport Demand Management in Beijing - Emission Reduction in Urban Transport" is funded through the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The aim of this project is to implement sustainable urban transport measures such as improving public transportation, parking space management or infrastructure for cyclists, estimating and monitoring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as disseminate successful approaches in China.

For a full list of upcoming SUTP events please see www.sutp.org