Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

Preparation for CITYNET 25th Anniversary programme in Surabaya is in full swing where a number of events including the International Seminar on Paving the Way Towards Environmentally Sustainable Cities, Cross-Cultural Festival, as well as C2C Award Ceremony will be held to honor outstanding achievements for the cities engaging in city-to-city cooperation.

Surabaya warmly welcomes all CITYNET members and partners to join the celebration in Surabaya to commemorate the Anniversary to be held from July 9-12, 2012. Details of the programme and registration are available on CITYNET website.

Surabaya is Indonesia’s second-largest city with a population of over 2.7 million (5.6 million in the metropolitan area), and the capital of the province of East Java. Surabaya has the second largest airport in Indonesia which can be accessed directly from other Asian cities. It is also a transit point between Jakarta and Bali. The Secretariat looks forward to spending a memorable and fruitful 25th Anniversary in Surabaya.

Best wishes,
CITYNET Secretariat

CITYNET News & Events

Features

Bangkok’s Floods Cause Cities to Rethink and Review their Plans
Floods took place in Bangkok on September 6 through November 29 last year, giving us lessons learnt on how we should best redesign our cities to face this kind of overwhelming natural disaster. In addition to several losses, the city afflicted by the disaster experienced a large economic loss because many factory sites in the northern part of the city were damaged by the flood.

CITYNET paid attention to the flood issues, and recognised the necessity of discussing this matter with major cities in Asia. The cities, universities and institutes in the region attended the Expert Group Meeting on Bangkok floods, which was organised by CITYNET and City Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) and hosted by Bangkok Metropolitan Government on March 8-9, 2012.

The purpose of EGM was to extract lessons from Bangkok and other cities, and work towards creating a more inclusive and integrated approach for urban infrastructure development. In this regard, the officials from six major cities, Seoul, Manila, Jakarta, Bangkok, Yokohama, and Ho Chi Minh presented their flooded experiences. Most of the presentations clearly highlighted that floods were not only caused by lack of infrastructure, but also by lack of governance.

Yokohama’s experience was found to be useful for the participants in terms of community engagement and the incentives system to prevent such disasters. Furthermore, the attendees visited the flooded area, Charansanitwong 74-1 and 44 in Bangplad District in the northern part of Bangkok, along the Chao Phraya River. It was not so difficult to find how the water levels were in the fences and walls at that time.

The participants were separated into three working groups, with each group discussing three topics: institutional and governance aspects, investment and financing aspects, and planning for the future. After the discussion, the groups and major cities reflected on key lessons discussed, and they also refined a road map for the planning of the future.

It was brought to attention in the meeting that Bangkok is in need of an integrated water management plan in an upstream area, more streamlined and effective communications with citizens, and a single command agency for the task of flood management. Moreover, the city needs to make a smart infrastructure investment in line with the city plan and engage communities and the private sectors in the process.

For Metro Manila, it was recommended that an organisational structure be set up to coordinate the cities/municipalities, provincial and national governments. The adaptation of incentive schemes was also pushed as a means to mobilise all organisations and actors effectively.
Ho Chi Minh was suggested to prepare a regional planning proposal—creating a space for water and linking with regulatory bodies— and develop a master plan for water management.

For Seoul, it was recommended that the city make a long-term review on how to address the increased flooding, and to make a smart investment of 5 billion USD, which is currently planned. And for other cities, they need to establish an oversight structure to coordinate agencies and strong inter-agency coordination.

In addition, each city must have a mandatory budget to invest a certain amount of money (example 5% in the Philippines) for floods prevention each year because future investments could be more economical than the investment covered after the disasters. Furthermore, there were also ideas that the cities located below sea level must make long term plans, such as a relocation of inhabitants to high level areas or a construction of a wall to block water, to anticipate the impact of climate change.

In this meeting, the cities each had a very useful chance to create their own efficient policies or systems to prevent urban floods by exchanging information and ideas that do not require too much budget and resources.

Floods can happen in every city and nation, thus making it extremely important to carry through with a long-term plan consisted of a balanced structural and non-structural system for the prevention of future floods. In regards to urban floods, CITYNET is going to facilitate C2C cooperation among major cities in the region and further share lessons learnt and know-how to contribute towards the growth and widening of resilience in communities in Asia and the Pacific region.

Leadership as the Key Success to Relieving a Car-Addicted Society

Dr. Gyeng Chul Kim, a keynote speaker at the 16th CITYNET Japan Forum, believes that cities should be designed for human beings and not for cars. He said that there are various leadership traits that can shape the development of a city. There are also various practices that a city may adopt in order to achieve sustainable growth. Focusing on the public leaders on sustainable urban transport, there were four (4) forerunners that took the lead. Dr. Kim is currently the President of KOTI (The Korea Transport Institute) as well...
as the Deputy Secretary-General of CITYNET.

Former Mayor Jaime Lerner of Curitiba, Brazil has been hailed a “Pioneer Leader” for implementing transport policy scheme called the “Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)” System. In 1972, one (1) in every 30 commuters use the bus as a public transport, however with the implementation of the said scheme now there are 3 out 4 commuters that use it with over 2 million passengers per day which is an increase in public transport ridership. They also implemented a bus network hierarchy to ensure efficiency in dense feeder system. The BRT system solved the lack of budget of the government.

“Humanist Leadership” is what former Mayor Enrique Peñalosa of Bogota, Colombia demonstrated. He first instituted the “Car Free Day” in 2000 which garnered the City a Stockholm Challenge Award. The Peñalosa administration spearheaded a number of bold initiatives, including the development of the TransMilenio, a citywide BRT system, and a wide-ranging network of bikeways. These initiatives resulted in the reduction of private automobile traffic by 22%, decrease in road accident victims by 50% due to the restrictions on cars during peak periods, and 400,000 cycle journeys a day on 60km of cycle lanes.

Another forerunner in implementing a sustainable urban transport initiative is former Mayor Ken Livingstone of London, United Kingdom showing a “Non-conformist Leadership” approach.” In 2000, London started upgrading its public transport and introduced “Congestion Charging.” The London congestion charge is a fee charged on most motor vehicle operating within the Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ) in central London between 07:00 and 18:00, from Monday to Fridays only. The implementation of these schemes resulted in the decrease of traffic by 20%, increase of cyclists by 30% and increase in bus network users by 40%. There was also a 5% modal shift from private car to public transport use. Congestion charging was a radical solution for long standing problem which saturated public transport users in a developed city.

“Ecologist Leadership” is what former Mayor Myung-Bak Lee of Seoul, Republic of Korea was known for in the field of transportation initiatives. Seoul implemented the “Push and Pull” Policy. The “Pull Strategy” project that they implemented was the Seoul Bus Reform and the “Push” was the Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration amongst others. The Bus Reform implemented five (5) integration approaches: 1) Institutional integration (custom-based governance), 2) Information integration (seamless transfer), 3) Physical integration (station stops, public transport + regional plan), 4) Network & Operation Integration (railway, bus, and air transport), and 5) Fare & Payment Integration (to enhance attractiveness and equity). One notable scheme that Seoul implemented is the “distance-based” fare system. BRT networks were also constructed which resulted in doubling the average bus speed in six (6) months after commissioning which is from 11 kilometers per hour (km/h) to 22km/h. This caused for the increase in bus passengers by 10% in less than a year.

As for the “Push Strategy” they implemented the Urban Space Reform such as the greening of car space, elimination of parking lots, establishment of pedestrian-friendly streets and culture reactive space among others. Former Mayor MB Lee said in 2003, “Now is the time to take away the gray concrete and bring the new Seoul as delightful place.” With this came the Cheonggyecheon Restoration where they demolished the urban motorway and restored it to re-introduce nature to the city and to promote a more eco-friendly urban design. Other goals of the project were to restore the history and culture of the region, which had been lost for 30 years, and to revitalise the economy of metropolis, Seoul. This Project had the purpose of preserving the unique identity of the natural environment and the historic resources in the Central Business District of Seoul. Among its achievements are the reductions of car-traffic volume of 125,000 vehicles per day, decrease in the number of vehicles entering Seoul by 2.3%, additional public transport users of about 430,000 (+1.4% for bus; +4.3% for metro) and better air quality in the zone. The stream helps to cool down the temperature on the nearby areas by 3.6 °C on average versus other parts of Seoul, which is also due to the reduction of private cars. The significant outputs
of Lee’s leadership has resulted to his election as the President of the Country for 2002-2006.

Dr. Kim concluded his presentation and shared five (5) principles to the participants - an acronym of E.E.E.G.G. that is Equity (self-respect), Economy, Eco-friendly, Globally, Governmentally Sound.

Prior to Dr. Kim’s presentation, Ms. Erika Ouchi, Chairman of Yokohama Car Free Day shared her Group’s activities and challenges to expand the activities of Car Free Day in Yokohama. She added that the administrative authorities should also take the lead and join hands with the citizens in order to effectively realise the full benefits of having an environmentally-friendly and safer city planning scheme.

3rd High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

The Environmentally Sustainable Cities agenda has long been a priority area for East Asian Countries. Five points of action were proposed at the 1st High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC) for implementation including: 1) An East Asian Model Cities initiative; 2) A clearing house for ESC-related data and information; 3) A Public and Private Sector Forum on ESC; 4) ESC Capacity Building Programme; and 5) EAS ESC Awards based on performance indicators. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), a new member of CITYNET, helped play a key role in developing the ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme for implementation under the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The 3rd HLS ESC was organised in Siem Riep, Cambodia, from March 6-8, 2012 for participating countries and cities to report their progress of the Model Cities programme after one year implementation. The Forum was hosted by the Government of Cambodia and co-organised by the Government of Australia, Government of Japan, Government of Thailand and the ASEAN Working Group on ESC.

More than 230 people representing national and local governments, international agencies, and others attended the Seminar. It focused on challenges faced by cities and available solutions to achieve ESC in the fields of solid waste management, urban water and sanitation as well as sustainable, low-carbon and green cities. New topics were also added including Public-Private Partnerships, Adaptation for Cities and Sustainable Low-Carbon Scenario Development.

Delegates proposed potential ways forward and opportunities for collaboration, including the needs for sustaining the HLS platform and expanding the Model Cities Programme. CITYNET, represented by Dr. Bernadia I. Tjandradewi, Programme Director, CITYNET,
together with other members, participated in the Forum and co-organised the Network Meeting for Local Governments. She also presented CITYNET's experiences with water and sanitation at the Breakout Session, along with specific ideas on how CITYNET can contribute to ESC at the Plenary Session.

For more information on HLS ESC, please click: http://www.hls-esc.org/

CITYNET 25th ANNIVERSARY

CITYNET will be celebrating its 25th year this year since its establishment on July 27, 1987. We hope that all members can celebrate the 25th Anniversary in your own city/country to further promote sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Secretariat has started preparing its activities for 2012 and requests all members for suggestions and active participation.

A celebration will be held in Surabaya, Indonesia from 10-12 July, 2012, in conjunction with the 29th Session of the CITYNET Executive Committee. To commemorate this special anniversary, we would like to request each member to plan an activity between July to December 2012 to further promote CITYNET within your city or country. To help plan your activities, CITYNET has produced a Brochure for Celebrations, which is available online here. We welcome any suggestions for activities and your plans will be shared among members and partners through e-News and the website.

In addition to this, we are also now planning CITYNET activities for 2012 and also welcome your suggestions on what you would like to see.

Auditor Visit 2012

In April 2012, the Secretariat welcomed Ms. Paciencia San Jose Tabinas, the City Government Department Head I (City Accountant) of Naga City, Philippines, to conduct the CITYNET Secretariat’s 3rd audit report for 2011 financial outlooks.

As this was her first time out of the country, her first impression of Japan was that of an advanced country with sophisticated technologies and infrastructure. When she arrived at the CITYNET Secretariat Office however, she was surprised to find that instead of being large and intimidating, CITYNET’s headquarters were actually very similar to her own workplace at home in terms of size, resources, and most importantly a warm and inviting atmosphere. She greatly appreciated the hospitality of all members of the Secretariat staff, and made some helpful recommendations in regards to our financial handling system, communications and promotions strategy, and relocation to Seoul.

According to Ms. Tabinas, CITYNET has already been stable for many years because its members are mostly comprised of local governments who provide regular payments/subsidies to CITYNET for its various budgets. She believes CITYNET can enjoy a relatively stable and predictable way of receiving funds, which means that our activities are definitely sustainable as long as we continues to deliver what we promise to our members. In this vein, CITYNET needs to make sure it continues to strive to procure better and more impressive results to the cities and organisations which provide them with the much needed funding and man/brainpower for their ongoing projects, making sure that the benefits from these projects equal or surpass the monetary costs of implementation. Thus, it is crucial that there exist a standardised scale for measuring the contributions that CITYNET makes to its member cities. If cities are unsatisfied with the results or feel like they are not gaining as much as they would like from their membership, this could result in
a potential withdrawal of membership from the organisation, which would take away significant funds and damage CITYNET’s good standing. In short, even if CITYNET enjoys a good rapport for the most part, it should always be on its toes and never forget this goal of continuous improvement.

Ms. Tabinas also mentioned that while the following may be an inconvenient truth, “in every organisation or company, the most crucial matter is finance.” Her assessment of CITYNET’s current financial management system was good, and she especially commended the Secretariat for having a “very good recording and handling system for financial transactions.” However, she felt that the office could benefit from a few changes in our general application/internal procedures to save us from wasting unneeded expenditure on cash transactions.

Finally, Tabinas stressed that in light of the upcoming relocation of the Secretariat office to Seoul, it is crucial to assess the value of the Yokohama office’s assets, as well as prioritise promoting the CITYNET brand in a strong manner. The best way to do this, according to her, is to use the CITYNET website as our most effective and wide-reaching tool to spread news and awareness to members.

The Auditor completed a good review of CITYNET’s financial system. The CITYNET Secretariat would like to thank Ms. Tabinas for her dedicated efforts as well as the generosity of Naga City.

### Clusters Update

#### Climate Change

**Partnership on Incentive Based Innovation for Climate Change Adaptation in Asia (ISWA Project)**

The second round of call for the application for the ISWA Project was announced in January 2012. The Secretariat received project proposals which are currently being screened by the Selection Committee. The results will be announced in early May. Iloilo was selected as the winner for the first round of call. Progress on Iloilo project will be shared to e-News readers in the next issue.

ISWA (International Solid Waste Association) Fund was established after the ISWA conference held in Yokohama to use the remaining funds from the conference. Currently, the allocated amount is USD10,000 per project to be used for climate change adaptation activities in CITYNET member cities. Further details can be requested from the Secretariat.

#### DISASTER

**Makati Expanded its Risk Reduction Partnership**


The Residency was divided into two groups. The first group focused more on the land use practices of Makati while the second group focused on emergency management. Makati presented its planning process and other land use practices through lectures and site visits. The emergency management was also presented through demonstration and site
The participants witnessed an Evacuation Drill at the community level as well as the Rescue Operation. As an output of this program, the participants are expected to formulate a City Disaster Risk Reduction Profile, Emergency Operations Plan, Public Awareness Campaign, City Atlas and Building Code Enforcement Manual. Makati, the Lead City of Disaster Cluster of CITYNET, has been playing a key role in promoting DRR amongst its members, including Kathmandu City.

Strengthen Disaster Mitigation and Management in Nepal (Makati Visit to MuAN)

Delegations from Makati City Government represented by various departments and Quito visited MuAN (Municipal Association of Nepal) office in Kathmandu on February 12, 2012. Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary of MuAN welcomed all the delegates and made a brief presentation on MuAN's effort and initiatives in disaster mitigation and management in the municipalities. He also mentioned about the recent National Workshop on Preparedness for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Municipalities of Nepal organised by MuAN with partners like CITYNET, the City of Yokohama, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNet) Nepal, the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). Makati being the lead city of disaster cluster of CITYNET assured that there could be many joint events and ventures with MuAN as a follow up of the national workshop. The delegations were also given a tour of Kathmandu’s cultural heritage sites. In October 2011, a delegation from MuAN had visited Makati for a study visit on the governance of Metro Manila. Delegations from Makati and Quito were in Kathmandu as a part of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

Lessons Learnt from the Bangkok's Floods

Please read our lead article at the very start of eNews which focuses on lessons learnt from the Bangkok’s floods.

Climate and Disaster Resilience Initiative Project - Update

The pilot project of the ‘Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative’ (CDRI), which strengthens the capacities of Asian cities to mainstream disaster risks reduction in city planning and management, got off to a strong start in February with 44 participants from nine cities joining the sessions. The joint effort between The World Bank/TDLC, Kyoto University, SEEDS India, UNISDR and CITYNET utilises blended learning technology (video concerning,
online learning) to develop disaster indices and action plans for the cities as well as providing an opportunity to share their experiences.

### Satellite Office

No Update

### National Chapter Update

#### Nepal

**CITYNET 5th General Congress**

The 5th General Assembly of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal was conducted in the chairmanship of Chapter’s Vice President Mr. Tilak Poudel, Executive Officer of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City on 30-31 March, 2012 in Siddharthanagar. The Assembly was attended by 18 Executive Officers of the member municipalities of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal. The General Assembly had some important agendas which gave rise to some important decisions, including the constitution amendment, proposed pilot project for 2012, and the establishment of the working committee of the Chapter.

**Discussions/Decisions**

Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary of MuAN and Member Secretary of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal presented the progress report of 2011. He gave a brief introduction of the Chapter and presented its objectives, vision and mission, achievements and challenges. He also mentioned about the success of School Sanitation Improvement Project in Tansen Municipality and Construction of Bio-Gas Plant to Improve the Slaughter House in Gulariya Municipality and possibility of replication of such projects. The assembly decided that the pilot activity worth 4000 USD being funded by CITYNET should be implemented in one of the resource poor municipalities among the members. All the identified member municipalities agreed to send their proposals within two weeks to CITYNET secretariat. Likewise, the business plan 2011-2013 drafted by Ms. Sara Neupane, Focal Person of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal was also approved by the assembly.

The assembly identified lack of communication and coordination as the greatest challenge being faced by the chapter. This is because of the frequent turn over of the Executive Officers. Hence, all of them decided to appoint one of their senior staff members as a focal person for coordinating all activities related to the Chapter. The Assembly also decided to invite chambers and urban sector related NGOs to become the members of the Chapter. The Assembly identified certain things to be changed in the Constitution of the Chapter so it made a Committee comprising Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Hetauda Municipality, Siddharthanagar Municipality, Banepa Municipality in coordination with MuAN for amending the Constitution within 3 months.

It was decided that any two signatures among the three Working Committee members i.e. President, Treasurer and Member Secretary would be acceptable for financial transaction. The meeting also decided that the treasurer would write letter to all members for the collection of membership dues. The newly formed Working Committee decided that the next meeting would be held on May 5, 2012 in Pokhara.

#### Indonesia

**National Chapter (Tirtanadi) visited Yokohama to Renew Cooperation**

Tirtanadi Water Authority of North Sumatera, Indonesia visited Yokohama recently to renew cooperation with the Yokohama Waterworks Bureau (YWWB). Mr.
Azzam Rizal, President Director of Tirtanadi Water Authority had visited Yokohama more than two decade ago when he participated as a trainee of the YWWB. His recent visit aimed to renew cooperation with YWWB to assist the Authority improves its water services. He hoped that through technical and managerial exchanges, Tirtanadi will be able to reduce its non-revenue water significantly over the next years. He also added that he needs to expand water resource’s capacity to be able to meet the MDGs by 2015.

During his visit, he had the opportunity to meet the Director General of YWWB, Mr. Kazunari Doi and made a stop at the Nishiya Water Purification Plant.

YWWB has been actively engaged with CITYNET members. As part of the capacity building development for CITYNET members, YWWB and CITYNET have been organising the training programme since 1998. For 2012 training programme, it will be held sometime in summer.

Bangladesh

Update on Recently Abolished Dhaka City Corporation

The abolition of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was carried out in November 2011 during the 28th Executive Committee meeting and the International Seminar on Climate Change hosted by DCC. DCC played an important role in revitalising the CITYNET Bangladesh National Chapter and it was one of the Executive Committee members.

DCC was divided into Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) by the Government of Bangladesh. Gazette notification was issued on 23 November 2011, and the decision came into force on 5 December 2011 in compliance with the Local Government Act 2011. CITYNET Secretariat received the letter from DNCC and DSCC that intends to continue cooperation with CITYNET.

CITYNET Secretariat

New Staff

Ms. Kathleen B. Almonte previously worked with the City Government of Makati, Philippines under the Department of Environmental Services as Planning Officer III for almost nine (9) years before joining CITYNET. She earned a Post Graduate Degree, Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning, at the University of the Philippines-School of Urban Regional Planning (UP-SURP) and is also an alumni officer of the of UP-SURP Alumni Association. Her undergraduate degree is Bachelor of Science in Tourism from the same University under the Asian Institute of Tourism. She also served as the Secretariat of the Association of Metro Manila Environment Officers (AMMEO). Ms. Almonte is also a member of the AMCI Mountaineering Club in the Philippines.

Ms. Almonte joined the Secretariat as Programme Officer.
Interns

Mr. Jae Hyeon Jay Park graduated from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea with a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Architecture, particularly focused on urban planning and design. His interests relate to global urban issues such as rapid urbanisation, housing deprivation, absolute poverty and climate change, all of which are of primary interest to CITYNET. He has two years of work experience in urban safety as a fire-fighter in Seoul Metropolitan Government and another two years of professional work experience in a Korea-based global trading company. During this one-year internship at CITYNET Secretariat, he is being involved in the preparation of an Inclusive Cities - a project initiated by CITYNET and other international NGOs to improve the living conditions of marginalised groups, and the 25th Anniversary of CITYNET’s publications. “I am very pleased to obtain a great opportunity to be engaged in the promotion of C2C cooperation in order to tackle the current global matters and to create people-friendly cities. I would like to make a contribution to CITYNET by applying my former experiences and also hope to enlarge my view points on development agenda, even beyond physical features in urban planning.” He will be in CITYNET until March 2013.

CITYNET Youth Japan

Students of the National University of Singapore (NUS) are visiting Yokohama to learn about “Public Transportation System” in May 2012. This marks the third time that they will be participating in the workshop together. After the two presentations by CITYNET Youth Japan Members and NUS students, the participants are separating into seven groups for the discussion. (Each group will focus on different topics). After the workshop, the CITYNET Youth Japan is having a party which everyone is very welcome to join!!
For more information, please contact youth_japan(at)citynet-ap.org or visit: CITYNET Youth Japan

**Partner News & Events**

**SUTP ASIA PROJECT UPDATE**

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