Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

This month marks the final preparation for the CITYNET’s 25 anniversary to be held in Surabaya, from 9 to 12 July 2012. Members and partners are expected to join the celebration and together renew our commitment and co-operation to work towards sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific region. CITYNET’s mission of creating socially just, ecologically sustainable, politically participatory and economically productive cities will continue with the same vigour and enthusiasm it has for the last 25 years. We look forward to your active participation in the celebrations.

Sincerely,
CITYNET Secretariat

CITYNET News & Events

Features

KLRTC 24 - Sustainable Urban Transport in the Asia-Pacific Region

The three day training course on Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia Pacific Region was completed in Kuala Lumpur from May 22-24, 2012 attended by 36 people including resource people from both within Malaysia and abroad.

In particular focus were Barisal, Kaohsiung, Sidoarjo and Thimphu all of whom presented their challenges as below:

Barisal: The primary challenge is in the mixed mode of public transportation in the city which includes anything from rickshaws to buses. Narrow roads and land acquisition along with resettlement issues are common. For the river transport, boats of all sizes ferry passengers along the river and needs to be better coordinated for safety and efficient use.

Kaohsiung: Due to the rise in privately owned transport, the city is facing an enormous challenge with scooters which amount to 63.8 percent of the trips made within the city. Adding to the issue is rise in traffic accidents related to the scooters and the lack of proper enforcement. Public transit rides amount to only 12.2 percent in the city. In total 81 percent of the transportation is covered by privately owned vehicles and scooters adding to severe traffic congestion, air pollution, and parking issues.

Sidoarjo: Transportation issues in Sidoarjo are more closely linked with their urban planning and local ordinance which has been weak to enforce regulations to improve the flow of traffic in the city. Current issues include street vendors obstructing traffic, illegal and unregulated parking, low awareness of drivers, poor maintenance of roads and undesignated public transport stops to load and unload passengers.

Thimphu: Passengers using taxis in Thimphu by far outnumber the people using buses thus causing traffic congestion in the city center. Public buses are infrequent and inefficient thus people opt to using private vehicles or other modes of transportation. Increased vehicles and narrow roads also have put a high demand for parking spaces. Similar to Sidoarjo, urban planning integrating with transportation planning has become critical in Thimphu.

This issue:

- KLRTC 24 - Sustainable Urban Transport in the Asia Pacific Region
- Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development)
- Rajshahi City Corporation gets National Environment Award
- A community finding its own identity: Jaegeon, Seoul
- Publications and Resources
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- CITYNET Youth Japan
- CITYNET Secretariat

Publications

- Spring/Summer 2012 City Voices, CITYNET
  A 16-magazine entitles ‘Bright Ideas & New Perspectives on Infrastructure & Urban Planning’

CITYNET Events

- July 9-12, 2012
  25th Anniversary Celebration, Surabaya, Indonesia

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Link to previous issues http://www.citynet-ap.org/media-room/e-news/
The training consisted of topics ranging from Policy Planning in Public-Private Transport to Co-Benefit to Transport and Environment. Experts in Transportation from GIZ-SUTP, Hokkaido University, Korean Transport Institute and the City of Yokohama shared their experiences in the relevant fields and assisted participating cities to make better action plans for their cities. The city of Kuala Lumpur also offered participants a study visit to their newly constructed integrated transport terminal for buses and trains. Several participants from cities outside Kuala Lumpur as well as private companies including Mitsubishi Motors and Toyota Tsusho attended the training to learn and share their knowledge on transport practices as well.

KLRTC training allows participants to work in small groups to address the issues that they have in their cities. Experts and resource people assist the trainees in various aspects of the theme including planning, financing, working with private sectors, making policy changes, addressing environmental issues as well as projecting for future growth. Further details on the output of the training will be available shortly through KLRTC 24 Update.

Offered three times a year on different themes, the next KLRTC will be held in cooperation with CDIA (Cities Development Initiative for Asia) on financing urban infrastructure scheduled for early September. Invitations will be sent to all CITYNET members in mid-July. The trainings are conducted under the CIFAL Network of UNITAR and hosted by Kuala Lumpur City.

Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development)

"Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Initially proposed at the 1992 Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the concept of sustainable development has globally been a mainstream drive with economic, environmental and social perspectives. To mark its 20th anniversary, the United Nations have invited all those concerned including world leaders, governmental representatives, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders to the same place of 1992 summit. All have participated to review Agenda 21 which was created as a blueprint "to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection."

CITYNET Secretariat-General, Ms. Mary Jane C. Ortega also attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which took place in Rio, Brazil between June 20-22, 2012. She, on behalf of CITYNET and its Secretariat, shared the organisation’s vision for sustainable cities facing various challenges with numerous government key persons, experts, private enterprises, multilateral organisations, NGOs and civil society groups during the whole period.

"10 years of the Charter of essential services: assessment, feedback and perspectives”, a side event organised by the French Institute for Public-Private Partnership (IGD) and Veolia Environnement under the support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) on June 17 was the place to review normative view in access to basic services. At the event, Ms. Ortega presented CITYNET’s experiences of the integration of environmental issues in the management of basic services in Asia, focusing on the role of CITYNET. She introduced the existing measures to face the current and potential disasters, the existing normative framework and standards in Asia for the environmental protection and planning.

In particular, she highlighted the challenges for Asian local governments to integrate environmental issues in their management system. They are often lack of capacity, financial resources, accessibility to handle those issues and not fully empowered through decentralisation. Partnership with civil society groups and other stakeholders is also a problem awaiting solution. Established in cooperation of Veolia Environment, Kuala Lumpur, UNITAR and CITYNET in 2003, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) has played a key role in tackling those challenges gaining many successes as a capacity development programme, and which were mainly shown at her presentation.

Ms. Ortega also attended numerous other events during the Rio+20, including “ScenaRio 2012” organised by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), “Resilient Cities - Fostering local action to achieve sustainable development” by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), etc.

At the Rio+20, UN member states have reached agreement on and adopted the outcome document of the Conference, which emphasises the need to establish goals of and mobilising for sustainable development, and to promote sustainable consumption and production. With this global resolution as a momentum, CITYNET has reconfirmed its support for member cities in improving the sustainability of human settlements in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information on Rio+20, please click: http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.html
Rajshahi City Corporation has snatched the first position in national level as the recognition for its efforts to preserve city environment clean and green. Mr. A. H. M. Khairuzzaman Liton, Honorable Mayor Rajshahi City Corporation received the National Environment Award-2012 from the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Bangabandhu International Conference centre on 5th June for his outstanding contribution in preserving city environment clean and green.

From July 2009 the nocturnal disposition of garbage has been started and RCC staffs were collecting garbage from visiting house to house. Rallies and meetings were also held in all wards of the city to make the city people conscious to preserve city’s cleanliness. Many foreigners who visited Rajshahi also highly lauded the clean environment of the city and termed Rajshahi City as one of the most beautiful cities of Bangladesh.

Rajshahi has been an active member of CITYNET. The city has also received a support from CITYNET for its tree plantation programme.

A Community finding its own identity: Jaegeon, Seoul

No home that can be called their own, no proper facilities, no separate toilets, in short it is a shantytown that is struggling to find its own place to live peacefully just like any human being should have a right to. Jaegeon is a community in Seoul that consists of around 96 households. Considered to be an illegal settlement by the government, the community is striving to build their own houses despite of the government not supporting them. The contradiction lies in the fact that it was the government who once forced these people to shift to the place where they have their community at present. As mentioned in the study about Jaegeon Community, “In 1981, the state government gathered war orphans, street rags and homeless people, named them as the Self-Support Labour Crops (SLC), and forcibly accommodated them at government land. The land is where the current Jaegeon Village is located.” To study the situation of the community and discuss the issues with the Mayor of Seoul; a joint team from ACHR and CITYNET Secretariat visited Seoul and also the Jaegeon community. The team members were: Somsook Boonyabancha, Secretary-General, ACHR; Prof. Mitsuhiko Hosaka, Nihon Fukushi University (former UNESCAP officer responsible for the establishment of CITYNET); Prof. Hong-Gyu Jeon, Osaka City University; and Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi of CITYNET. They were accompanied by the new member of CITYNET, the Asian Bridge, represented by Hyowoo Na, Executive Director and Boram Kim, Programme Manager.

Community of Jaegeon shared their story.
During the visit, the delegates had talks with the Mayor of Seoul regarding the city's overall growth and the future opportunities to make Seoul one of the best cities in terms of inclusive development. The mayor too agreed with the fact that the city's goals are similar to other Asian cities. This mission has been quite a successful one, as the mayor welcomes the suggestion of CITYNET and ACHR, an active member of CITYNET, to hold a workshop on inclusive city development in Seoul. Coming back to the Jaegeon community, the struggle to achieve their goals remains the top priority of the members. But it is an organisation like CITYNET which strives to help and bring the governments and communities together and agree upon one common goal that can be achieved if we work and co-operate together. There are many such similar communities which have a hard time in realising and working towards their goals, but the struggle is an ongoing process which can only be a success due to unity of the members of the community associated with it and close cooperation with local governments.

Publications & Resources:
Asia Pacific must adopt low carbon policies to sustain growth - UN

Asia-Pacific nations must adopt low carbon policies to reduce poverty and sustain their economic growth, according to a United Nations roadmap, which puts forward a series of strategies to help developing countries in the region deal with shrinking natural resources and climate change and drive sustainable development.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot achieve development goals fully by following conventional growth strategies,” the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Noeleen Heyzer, said in her foreword to the roadmap.

The roadmap – the ESCAP Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific – Turning resource constraints and the climate crisis into economic growth opportunities - proposes a five-track path of change with 63 policy options and 51 examples, and calls for economic reforms in market prices, regulations and governance, as well as infrastructure such as transport, buildings, urban design, energy, and water waste systems.

"Resource constraints, price volatility and the climate crisis have removed business as usual as an option and require a serious re-examination of resource and carbon-intensive growth strategies," Ms. Heyzer said. "If our region is to sustain the high economic growth that we need to achieve our development goals, then we must shift to a different growth trajectory," she added.

According to ESCAP, Asia-Pacific countries use three times the resources as the rest of the world to produce a unit of gross domestic product.

The roadmap aims to help policymakers in the region “turn the till-now trade-off between the ecological crisis and economic growth into a synergy in which resource constraints and climate crisis become opportunities for the growth necessary to reduce poverty in the region,” said the Director of the ESCAP Environment and Development Division, Rae Kwon Chung.
The Ninth International Symposium on Water Supply Technology

The Ninth International Symposium on Water Supply Technology will be held in Yokohama City, the birthplace of the country's first modern water service, for three days from 20 to 22 November, 2012. For over 20 years since the first symposium in 1988, the International Symposium on Water Supply Technology has been continually held on a triennial basis as an opportunity to discuss the world's current water supply problems and most recent water supply technology trends.

Under the theme of "Resilient Water Supply System - Pursuing Safety, Sustainability and Environmental Friendliness", the Ninth Symposium will be held with the support of the International Water Association (IWA) along with the participation of many countries from around the world. The Symposium will cover a keynote speech, special lecture, and presentations on cutting-edge water supply technology, and so on. In addition, the problems and direction of water supply technology in the world will be summarised at the panel discussion. A special session based on the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 with the theme of "Toward Water Supply Systems Resistant to Earthquake and Tsunami" will also be organised.

Finally, an exhibition to be held simultaneously with the symposium will be an excellent opportunity for business entities and companies/organizations to show the world the advanced water supply technology of Japan and to create business networks. We sincerely look forward to everyone's participation in the Ninth International Symposium on Water Supply Technology.

For more information, please click the link below:

http://www2.convention.co.jp/water2012/english/index.html

The Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration - one of the most interesting places to visit in Seoul.

Training Opportunity in Seoul

This is the second announcement. In August 2012, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) plans to open the 5th master programme in the field of a comparative city administration for the city officials of a sister city of SMG or a city designated as a core partner by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea.

The qualifications for the programme are those who have a bachelor degree as a city official and have a sufficient command of speaking and writing in English. In total 18 candidates will be selected after an English interview by telephone and a certified English test score, such as TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS is needed.

The programme courses include: citizen welfare, tourism, electronic government, rental housing and transportations etc. The students have to study for 13 months in Seoul and 12 months in the city they work. Every student must submit a thesis that compares SMG and their city to receive a master degree. SMG will cover a round trip air fare, tuitions, dormitory and living allowances.

The cities that qualified as a member of CITYNET to apply for this programme are Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh, Municipality of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Jakarta Capital City Government, Indonesia, Capital Development Authority, Pakistan, Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Lanka, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Thailand and Hanoi People’s Committee, Vietnam. Those cities can recommend up to four officials in a city. For more information, contact to Mr. Park Jae-Min (e-mail: kypjm@seoul.go.kr).

ESCAP said that Asia-Pacific developing countries must shift towards a resource- and energy-efficient growth pattern because of growing resources constraints and climate impacts - and that the shift to low-carbon green growth requires political will from governments, as well as international collaboration. “The countries of Asia and the Pacific should lead this process by generating the regional momentum necessary to move towards a green economy capable of lifting people out of poverty and achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development,” Ms. Heyzer said.

(the article was extracted from the ESCAP's website)
The World Cities Summit (WCS) is the global platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge partnerships. Under the theme, Liveable and Sustainable Cities - Integrated Urban Solutions, the World Cities Summit 2012 will explore how cities can build resilience and improve their quality of life and environment by adopting integrated solutions to increasingly complex challenges. Strategically sited in the Asia Pacific region where many cities are experiencing unprecedented growth, Singapore is the ideal host for this Summit. After the success of the first two Summits, World Cities Summit 2012 is expected to attract more than 3,000 government leaders, policy makers and industry experts from around the world.

To find out more information, please visit the World Cities Summit website here. The Summit will take place between 1-4 July 2012. CITYNET has been the partner since the first WCS.

Clusters Update

Climate Change

ISWA Fund Project on "Partnership on Incentive Based Innovation for Climate Adaptation in Asia"

Iloilo was selected to receive the first ISWA funding for its climate change and adaptation project that provides an alternative livelihood and better income to fisher folks. Iloilo is preparing the progress report for submission to the Secretariat.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia-Pacific Cities

Disaster Cluster members will meet in Sidoarjo, Indonesia on 13 and 14 July to discuss the proposed activities for the year 2013 onwards. They will have the opportunity to share their disaster risk reduction best practices for possible benchmarking and/or adoption, as well as to get the update on the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool.

Prior to Sidoarjo's workshop, the Cluster members will meet in Surabaya on 10 July for the Mayors' Meeting towards the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Yogyakarta in October this year. The meetings are organised in cooperation with UNISDR and ESCAP. Further details will be available in the upcoming e-News.

Infra

Best Practices Sharing Workshop and Survey on Sustainable Transport

One of the major issues that cities are facing today especially in highly urbanised areas is the problem on transport and traffic management. Having a sustainable transportation system is still a concern that many cities in the region have not been able to attain and there are a number of reasons for that. Among this includes the lack of technical capacity and capability, insufficient resources, information and data and more importantly lack of political will of leaders.

With this in mind, “Building sustainable transport in the Asia-Pacific region” is developed in line with CITYNET’s plans to create “A Knowledge and Capacity-Building Centre for Smart Cities and Communities in the Asia-Pacific Region.” This plan aims to further increase the capacity of the city/national governments pertaining to sustainable transport. In line with this, a capacity building project for sustainable transport will be conducted in partnership with the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) - the Infrastructure Cluster Chair, and the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI). This capacity building training will have two (2) parts; the first one is the 2-day international seminar focusing on public transport, and the second part is the 3-day best practices sharing workshop with participants coming from the national government and the capital city. The programme will be held from October 8 to 12, 2012 in Seoul, Korea.

Another initiative for the Infrastructure Cluster is the survey currently being conducted with the member cities with more than one (1) million populations. The survey is in partnership with ESCAP Sustainable Urban Development Section (SUDS) which is about the sustainability of the transportation system in secondary cities in Asia. In developing countries, due to lack of funding sources, the secondary cities are often neglected. As the secondary cities are also experiencing rapid growth, it
is necessary to determine how sustainable these cities are. If effective policies and approaches are taken at an early stage in the medium and small sized cities then many of the issues that exist in the megacities due to rapid growth such as traffic congestion could be avoided. The report of this study will be published electronically to help members achieve a sustainable urban transportation system.

Satellite Office

Nepal

CITYNET Nepal National Chapter School Sanitation Improvement Project 2012

CITYNET Nepal National Chapter completed the first school sanitation improvement in 2010 in Tansen Municipality which received very good reviews from the other municipalities. Interests for replicating similar projects have been high among the Nepali members of CITYNET as well as members of Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN).

To further expand the services to other municipalities, CITYNET Secretariat received a project proposal from Ramgram Municipality which was submitted through MuAN, also on school sanitation improvement project for the year 2012. Ramgram Municipality is located in Lumbini district in southern Nepal and was declared a municipality not based on the presence of adequate physical infrastructures but based merely on its population. Hence as per current data there is a lack of physical infrastructure in all sectors from roads, sanitation and sewerage to water supply. Only 15 percent of the total population of the municipality has access to road connectivity and only 9 percent of the total roads are black topped. In the case of household drainage, only 17 percent of the total household of municipality has such facility. Besides, more than 17 percent of the surface water drainage is temporary, 30 percent is permanent covered with slabs, and more than 53 percent is permanent not covered with slab. Regarding waste disposal, only 12 percent uses public drainage for waste disposal and others use river, roads and household pit for waste disposal.

The objectives of this project is to construct a gender-friendly toilet in a government school to improve the sanitation conditions of the students and to deliver a workshop on importance of sanitation and hygiene to the students, their parents and the teachers as well. The project is expected to improve hygiene practices in the school and also in the municipality. It will further raise awareness on improved access to better sanitation facilities and healthy habits for children.

The concrete expected outputs of this project are as follows:
- Open defecation will be minimised around the river and agricultural field.
- Environment around the school will be healthy and clean.
- Children will learn about the healthy habit of using toilet.

The project is expected to start by the end of July.

CITYNET Youth Japan

On May 19, CITYNET Youth Japan (CYJ) held a workshop with students of the National University of Singapore (NUS). The main topic was on public transportation system. It started with the presentations made by NUS and CYJ members. Furthermore, CYJ talked about the differences between public transportation system of the metropolitan and the rural areas in Japan. Then, NUS shared about the security system in Singapore and the MRT accident that occurred last year.

During the discussion session, participants were divided into eight groups and each group had different topics. Topics covered were sustainable transportation, transportation and politics, transportation for elderly, and so on. It was a good opportunity to talk to each other. Also, it made the participants aware of the strengths of each country and the way it can be handled to make the world a better place to live.

CITYNET Secretariat

Intern - Ms. Sneha Ruikar is an undergraduate student at Temple University Japan. She hails from Mumbai, India and feels strongly about the development issues that CITYNET is working for in the Asian region. Being a communication major, she is
interested in digital media i.e. online journalism and writing. She also has an experience in pre-production and post-production. Her decision of doing an internship at CITYNET is due to her background as well as interest in development issues in the region. "Working at CITYNET will give me an opportunity to express my thoughts about the development of the Asian region through writing. Also, the multicultural work experience is what I'm looking forward to", she says.

**Partner News & Events**

**SUTP Asia Project Update**

**GIZ supports KLRTC course in Kuala Lumpur**

Mr. Carlosfelipe Pardo took part as a facilitator/trainer in the KLRTC XXIV session on sustainable urban transport in Asia and the Pacific region (see the report above). Issues ranging from financing to specific implementation of sustainable urban transport projects were discussed, and an action plan for each city was put forward as an end result. The training event was organised by CITYNET, UNITAR, the Veolia Environnement, and Kuala Lumpur and took place on May 22-24, 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. The next training course will be held in 2013 in Seoul along with KOTI (Korea Transport Institute).


**Bridging the Gap’ side-event at UNFCCC in Bonn**

The official 'Bridging the Gap' (BiG) side-event ‘Designing a Successful Transport NAMA’ took place on Wednesday, 16th May at the UNFCCC’s 36th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB) in Bonn (Germany). The event was well attended by representatives from ministries, multilateral development banks, UN organisations and other institutions from various countries including Benin, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand and Venezuela.


**GIZ-SUTP delivers two-day course on Sustainable Urban Transport for Bhutan**

GIZ provided a training course on sustainable urban transport in Paro (Bhutan), in cooperation with the Road Safety Transport Agency (RSTA) of Bhutan Government. The course had 30 participants from various cities in Bhutan, and focused on implementing sustainable transport policies in accordance to the country’s Gross National Happiness index, and in supporting the current policies and projects developed in the country.


**Workshop on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 8-10 May, 2012**

GIZ - SUTP, together with EMBARQ India conducted a two and half day residential training course on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) for over 20 senior level policymakers from Sri Lanka, from 8-10th May, 2012. The course was hosted and supported by the Air Resource Management & International Relations Division (Airmac), Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka.


**List of recent GIZ Publications**

Recent GIZ publications include:


**Upcoming Events**

Title: 6th Cities for Mobility World Congress, 2012
Date: 01-04 July, 2012
Venue: Stuttgart, Germany

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