

## A Silent Revolution

**C**ommunities have immense power in bringing about positive change in municipal governance. This is being proven by a quiet but forceful tide of change sweeping communities in CITYNET Solid Waste Management (SWM) Cluster cities. An example of this is the community- and school-based city-to-city cooperation project initiated in Phnom Penh. This is an expansion of CITYNET's AWAREE, or environmental education, Project funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), which had identified solid waste management as the foremost environmental concern in Phnom Penh. Two recent Technical Advisory Service (TAS) visits to Phnom Penh by the CITYNET member NGO, Sevanatha from Sri Lanka, are bringing about rapid changes in the mindset of the municipal government, school students, and the community by introducing community- and school-based composting.

The expert from Sevanatha, Mr. K. A. Jayaratne, first visited Phnom Penh from May 7 to 12, 2006, on a CITYNET-facilitated visit to the City. His second visit, in August, to find local composting bin producers, has been a follow-up of the action plan generated through the first intervention.

During both tours, Mr. Jayaratne visited municipality offices and schools, making presentations to the staff, teachers, and students about the techniques and benefits of



**Sevanatha expert explaining the composting bin structure to Phnom Penh city officials**

*"I am really impressed by the commitment of Phnom Penh Municipality to the promotion of a community-based solid waste management system in the City. More than 20 schools in Phnom Penh have already mobilised students for waste separation at source, and to collect organic waste to be used as raw material to produce compost."*

**- Mr. K. A. Jayaratne,  
Sevanatha, Sri Lanka**

### **Community- and school-based Solid Waste Management (SWM) gaining ground through CITYNET's SWM Cluster activities.**

community-based SWM. He introduced the unique composting method developed by the NGO in 1997, which has brought tangible results in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Waste segregation at source is an integral part of community-based SWM. Once garbage is separated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable components, organic waste is consigned to bins where it turns into compost over three months.

The design for the bins, specially constructed to be odour-free and sanitary, was also part of the technical transfer made to

Phnom Penh during the expert's visit. The low-cost bins are now set to be locally produced through a small-scale public-private partnership process.

In the current phase of this project in Phnom Penh, some of the AWAREE Project pilot schools in the city are being trained in SWM practices. Earlier, under AWAREE, garbage segregation had already begun in these schools and composting will now be initiated there.

As a next step, composting bins produced locally, with funding support from the AWAREE Project, will be distributed to the community through school students. With students acting as monitors of the process, records will be kept of the progress made by households on garbage segregation and composting.

*(Contd. on Page 4...)*

### **Euro-Asian City-to-City Projects Set to be Launched Under PRO-ACT**

The PRO-ACT Project, jointly initiated by Greater Lyon, CITYNET, EUROCITIES, the NGO Economie & Humanisme, and Colombo City (as the CITYNET Sri Lanka National Chapter), is now in its final stages.

During a workshop in Colombo, entitled, "PRO-ACT: Enhancing the City-to-City Euro-Asian Dialogue," held May 24 to 26, 2006, a wide range of stakeholders came together to refine pilot projects under PRO-ACT. Memoranda of Understanding were drafted and will be signed by participant cities shortly. The key learning from the workshop was that international donors will only get interested in projects when cities are able to articulate them convincingly. Cities, therefore, need to be persuasive in their project proposals to donor agencies.

Projects already being developed under PRO-ACT include Risk Management (Colombo and Greater Lyon), Solid Waste Management (Banda Aceh and Rotterdam), Urban Planning (Kathmandu and Ancona), Waste Water (Hue), Urban Transport (Kuala Lumpur), and Financial Engineering (Phnom Penh). The final seminar of the PRO-ACT Project will be conducted in Mumbai, India, on November 2 and 3, 2006, in conjunction with the 22nd CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting and Workshop on Waste Minimisation. For further information on PRO-ACT: <http://www.proact-cooperation.org> and <http://www.proact-networking.org>.

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## CLUSTER UPDATES

# Urban Planners Sharpen the Saw

**KLRTC IX: Integrated Urban Planning for Sustainable Urban Management**

From July 2 to 8, 2006, urban planners and engineers from 12 countries around the Asia-Pacific shared, discussed, and brainstormed on cutting-edge planning solutions to growing urban concerns. During the ninth course at the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC), participants evaluated the adaptability of each other's best practices in their own cities, and identified areas where they could help each other overcome development hurdles.

Key presentation areas included Sustainable Urban and Physical Planning, Urban Transport, and Heritage conservation. Ms. Melissa Gibbs, Executive Director of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, presented an overview of the approach that Sydney has taken in its urban planning. Ms. Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asia Pacific, addressed participants on the localisation of MDGs. Site visits, including one to Putrajaya, the new administrative capital of Malaysia, were organised during the course.

A panel of urban experts reviewed action plans developed by each participant city and commented on the strengths and weaknesses of the plan. Islamabad, Colombo, and Muntinlupa presented their cities' urban plans,



**- Mr. Tilak Ananda Gamage, Superintending Engineer, City Planning Division, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

*"KLRTC IX gave me a new perspective and an inside view of how cities in the Asia-Pacific carry out their planning and development activities."*

**- Ms. Cynthia T. Meneses, Planning Officer, Muntinlupa, Philippines**



**- Mr. Mohammad Nurul Hassan, Town Planner, Chittagong Development Authority, Bangladesh**

*"I felt like this training course was designed specifically for me! It was directly related to my day-to-day work and operations, as well as to my City's future plans."*

*"This was not an ordinary training programme. We actually got the opportunity to meet and find some potential partners."*

**- Mr. Mohammad Nurul Hassan, Town Planner, Chittagong Development Authority, Bangladesh**

*"KLRTC is among the best regional training centres in the CIFAL Network. There are two main reasons for its success. The first is the strong support and engagement of the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur. The concept of KLRTC is a natural fit into the policies and vision of Kuala Lumpur City. The second, and very critical, pillar of KLRTC's success is the presence of CITYNET as a partner. CITYNET is a dynamic network, and has proven an extremely efficient and reliable partner for us."*

**- Ms. Berta Pesti, Programme Officer, DCP, UNITAR**

**(KLRTC is a CIFAL Centre, initiated in partnership by UNITAR, CITYNET, KL City Hall, Veolia Environnement, UNDP, and other partners.)**

- The importance of systematic implementation of urban plans.
- Efforts being made by Asia-Pacific cities to be competitive.
- Means to get public participation in the planning process.
- Building partnerships with diverse stakeholders.
- Heritage conservation and modernisation as complementary elements.

**(KLRTC is a CIFAL Centre, initiated in partnership by UNITAR, CITYNET, KL City Hall, Veolia Environnement, UNDP, and other partners.)**



**Ms. Berta Pesti  
Programme Officer  
DCP, UNITAR**

### CITYNET participates in ICT Workshop

CITYNET recently participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on ICT (Information Communication Technology) and Higher Education, jointly organised by Waseda University, Japan, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in Tokyo. During the conference, the ADBI also organised a workshop on ICT Cluster Development for Regional Cooperation among Local Governments. Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, a CITYNET member, presented a case study from the Philippines on the use of city-wide webportals by local governments. Also, Dr. Bernadiah Irawati Tjandradewi, CITYNET Programme Manager, presented the Network's perspective during the session entitled, "City-Level Strategy for e-Government and e-Municipality". CITYNET members' ICT Cluster will meet in Mumbai in November 2006 to decide on a plan of activities, and it is hoped that the Cluster will be able to collaborate with the ADB and ADBI.

## CLUSTER DIARY

### Infra Cluster

A team from Makati, Philippines, is scheduled to visit Seoul, South Korea, to study the Bus Rapid Transit System of Seoul. The technical exchange will be part of a city-to-city cooperation project of CITYNET. A Memorandum of Cooperation has been finalised and will be signed by both cities soon.

### Disaster Cluster



*Yokohama experts on a tour of a fire station in Islamabad.*

**Experts Visit Islamabad:** In the city-to-city cooperation project on disaster preparedness and management between Yokohama and Islamabad, two experts from Yokohama recently visited Islamabad and the earthquake-affected Kot village in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. Mr. Junichi Miyakawa from the Safety Management Bureau, and Mr. Atsushi Hattori from the Building and Repair section of the Yokohama Waterworks Bureau, were in Islamabad from July 17 to 28, 2006.

They observed the current practices in building construction approval and inspection, earthquake resistance measures in the construction code, fire service preparedness, and the disaster prevention capability of Islamabad. A workshop for municipal officials and civil society groups was organised by two CITYNET members in Pakistan – Islamabad and PIEDAR. At the end of their visit, the experts presented a set of recommendations to Islamabad, including the setting up of a disaster information and communication centre, assignment of a "Crisis Management General Administrator," revamping of the fire service, promotion of community disaster prevention organisations, and disaster preparedness education in schools.

**Workshop in Colombo:** BIOFORCE, an NGO from Greater Lyon, conducted a risk-management workshop in Colombo in May 2006 as part of the PRO-ACT Project. 22 participants studied disaster phases and mitigation, and discussed the challenges of making decisions in emergencies, the community's role, and the ideal disaster response. It was recommended by participants that future workshops cover all types of disasters, not just natural disasters.

## Seoul's Bus System Reforms Impress Practitioners

6th CITYNET Japan Forum

The CITYNET Japan Forum - the sixth in a series of public fora organised periodically by CITYNET to discuss the Region's urban best practices and concerns - was held on July 27, 2006, in Yokohama. Mr. Shang Chur Shin, former Director of the Taxi and Logistics Division in Seoul Metropolitan Government, South Korea, and Senior Fellow of CITYNET, was the main speaker at the Forum, which focused on Seoul's Bus System Reforms.

Plagued with increasing traffic congestion, slow bus speeds, low ridership, and high incidence of bus-related accidents, Seoul decided to overhaul its bus system. Bus lines were reorganised and median bus lanes were created to ease the passage of buses. A new T-money card was introduced, in partnership with a private company. The fare system was changed to a distance-based one, where transfers within and between different modes of public transport are free. Even the quality and cleanliness of buses was improved to attract commuters. The resultant Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) has become a successful case study worldwide, and CITYNET is facilitating its technical transfer to Makati, Philippines, and to other cities. Mr. Shin pointed out that with the implementation of the bus system reforms and the BRTS, Seoul has been able to increase bus speed by 10 km/hr, reduce the number of bus-related accidents by almost 30%, and ridership is now 6 times more than in other lanes. The City's fare revenue has also gone up considerably.

Urban transport practitioners gathered at the Forum expressed avid interest in Seoul's implementation of the large-scale reforms.

## MEMBER IN FOCUS

# Calbayog: MDGs' implementation helping all-round growth

- By Mayor Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Calbayog, Philippines

Calbayog is one of the oldest cities in the Philippines. It is located on the northwestern coast of the island of Samar. The City's population of 163,000 is dispersed in 157 barangays, or settlements.

Our culture is rich and deep, with the Sarakiki-Hadang Festival being proudly celebrated by all Calbayogons. Historically, due to its strategic location, Calbayog used to be a hub for trade and commerce. Major institutions of learning made it an educational centre, as well.

Calbayog took a major step forward in regaining the glory of its past when it became one of the 12 Philippine pilot cities for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) localisation, two years ago. Since then, the adoption of this path has proven to be a good decision for us in many different spheres. The City Social Welfare and Development Office is taking the lead in implementation of the MDGs, with its Department Manager as the focal person.

Early in our efforts, we realised that the MDGs are related to all the services that we, as a municipal government, already provide. It gave us an opportunity to reflect on our performance. We even revisited our vision and mission, and reviewed it in a larger context.

In April 2005, we created an MDGs Consultative Body, a Technical Working Group,

and a Secretariat in our City. In May the same year, we formally adopted and mandated the integration of MDGs in our City's Development Plan, and set down budgetary benchmarks for this.

Our learnings from the MDGs implementation process so far have been very heartening. We have realised that we have already been working on most MDGs targets. What is important is organisational integration to create synergy between similar programmes and services. This will ensure maximisation of resources and their impact.

Becoming a member of CITYNET in October 2005 is yet another milestone for us in our journey towards sustainably achieving the MDGs. We are confident that the access to other cities' experiences that we get from being in the Network will accelerate our development efforts.



Mayor Sarmiento on a visit to a barangay advocating the MDGs to elected officials.

## MEMBERS SPEAK

### "Being Auditor for CITYNET will help us build our capacity and image"

- By Mayor Yong-Seo Kim, Suwon, South Korea

Suwon became a member of CITYNET in 1991. Since then, our goal has been to play an active role in the Network and, in the process, to contribute to our own City's aspirations of being known as an international city.

During the 2005 CITYNET Congress, held in Hanoi, Suwon was elected the Auditor for the Network for a four-year term. With this, I feel, we have crossed over from being just a recipient of knowledge and information in the Network, to contributing actively to its management and growth.

We conducted our first audit of CITYNET for the year 2005 in May this year. It was a good experience for our City to get a close look at CITYNET's work and its financial health. The audit went very smoothly and we consider it a very successful mission. I feel good that Suwon is able to shoulder the responsibility of being a CITYNET member, and contribute to the Network in a



tangible manner with the audit.

Our City is focused on developing a growth engine that will carry us through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To fulfill our growth objectives, it is important for us to be regarded as an international city, and to bring people to our City from all over the world. We are building a convention complex spread over a 420,000 sq. mt. area that will include convention space, hotels, and exhibition centres. The project will be completed by 2009, and we hope to attract a large number of people for events in this complex.

Our membership in CITYNET is an important part of our strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. For the next three years, Suwon will continue to do its duty as the Auditor city, and I hope that this will bring our City into sharper focus. I request all CITYNET members for their support in our endeavours, and to visit Suwon whenever possible.

## Upcoming Activities

**September 3 - 17:** TAS from Yokohama to Phnom Penh and Hanoi (AWAREE Project)

**November 1:** 22nd Executive Committee Meeting of CITYNET - Mumbai, India

**November 2 - 3:** Final Seminar of the PRO-ACT Project on Enhancing the City-to-City Euro-Asian Dialogue - Mumbai, India

**November 2 - 3:** Workshop on Solid Waste Minimisation in Asia and the Pacific Region - Mumbai, India

**November 4:** CITYNET ICT Cluster Meeting - Mumbai, India

**December 10 - 16:** KLRTC X on Government and Water & Sanitation Services Utility: Partners in Providing Services - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Publications



The CITYNET Annual Report 2005 has been printed and distributed to members recently. This is the first time that the Network's Annual Report has been published in hard copy format.

The publication contains highlights of the Network's activities during 2005, and outlines its plans for future growth and programme development.

*(Copies of the Report are available from the Secretariat upon request. Please note that the Report is available only in English.)*

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## CITYNET Advocates Stronger Asia-Pacific Presence at WUF3

The CITYNET Secretariat delegation to the World Urban Forum 3 (WUF3), held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006, underscored the need for greater involvement of Asia-Pacific local governments at the event.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Good Governance Regional Consultative Meeting held during the Forum, CITYNET, UNESCAP, the UNDP Millennium Campaign, Huairou Commission, and the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India came together to plan the Asia-Pacific preparations for the 2008 WUF4, to be held in a CITYNET member city - Nanjing, China. It was decided that all means would be explored to increase the visibility of the Region's local governments during the next Forum. WUF3 brought out several areas of agreement among the 10,000 participants from 100 countries. Key among these was the need for urban stakeholders to work harder and in tandem, higher levels of innovation among cities, and the importance of transparency and accountability. (For more: <http://www.wuf3-fum3.ca/>)

## PEOPLE

### Mr. Shin Completes Tenure as Senior Fellow



Mr. Shang Chur Shin, who had been at the CITYNET Secretariat since March 2005 as a Senior Fellow on deputation from the Seoul Metropolitan Government, South Korea, completed his tenure in July 2006.

During his stay at the Secretariat, Mr. Shin's focus has been on studying international cooperation and the urban development policies of the Region's cities through observing CITYNET's work. He participated in several CITYNET activities during his tenure.

Commenting on his one-and-a-half-year stint at the Secretariat, Mr. Shin pointed out that Seoul has 22 sister cities and 5 offices overseas, and that its vision is to become a world-class city. "The time I have spent at the CITYNET Secretariat has resulted in valuable lessons for me in international cooperation, especially city-to-city cooperation. With this experience to back me, I hope that after my return I will be able to contribute to Seoul's vision more actively." Mr. Shin had been in Japan with his wife and two sons. On behalf of all CITYNET members, we thank Mr. Shin for his contribution to the Secretariat, and hope that the family has a smooth transition back to South Korea.

### Ms. Tomomi Shimizu Leaves the Secretariat

Ms. Tomomi Shimizu (*nee* Matsubara), who had worked at the CITYNET Secretariat since August 2003, first as a Project Assistant and later as an Administrative Assistant, left CITYNET in June 2006. Ms. Shimizu worked on a wide range of administrative areas, including membership management, protocol, documentation, and logistics. "I am so lucky to have worked in a multi-cultural workplace like the CITYNET Secretariat! This was my first work experience and I feel enriched by it," said Ms. Shimizu about her time at the Secretariat. She is moving to the USA with her family and hopes to be back in Japan in the future. We thank Ms. Shimizu for her dedication to CITYNET's work, and her contribution to the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat. We hope that her move to the USA will be a successful and happy one.



## A Silent Revolution

*(...Contd. from Page 1)*

This "Cash from Trash" initiative has drawn an instant response from the staff and students of these pilot schools. As the project progresses, training of trainers in the community for the composting process, production of information materials, small-scale private sector participation will all be enhanced in tandem. A strong pillar of this project has been the solid support and commitment of the Governor of Phnom Penh, His Excellency Mr. Kep Chuk, and the Vice-Governor, Mr. Mann Chhoem.

With SWM trends in the Region indicating that the volume of household waste is increasing, community-based SWM could well prove an alternative to expensive high-technology recycling in the Asia-Pacific.

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