

Fostering Municipal & Business Partnerships

Executive Committee Holds its Thirteenth Session in Kathmandu



The Rt. Honourable Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal inaugurating the Workshop by lighting the oil lamp - a Nepalese custom. See article below -Photo courtesy of KMC

Cities are all too well aware of the necessity to create an appropriate and enabling environment where economic activities can take place. Recently, local governments in Asia have started to look to the business community to meet the growing municipal needs for services and development. Business partnerships allow urban areas to share the strengths of the private sector, such as access to finance, knowledge of technologies, and managerial efficiency, while fostering a sense of social responsibility in the business community. Businesses are moving increasingly beyond the role of the traditional philanthropism and participating in projects that aim to improve quality of life.

As an advocacy body for local governments, CityNet conducted the International Workshop on the Role of Local Governments in Fostering Business Partnerships for Environmental Sustainability from 3 to 5 November 1999 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) and UMP-Asia and received support from UNCHS, UNDP-TUGI and GTZ/UDLE.

Many ideas exchanged

Delegates from municipalities around the world shared their experiences and ideas on how to foster more attractive environments for business/city co-operation. Addressing the effect of local politics on business activity, Colombo City highlighted that the inclusion of opposition parties in the city management processes was a key for getting business people as well as the community involved in services delivery, such as the maintenance of public toilets, traffic lighting systems and common amenities for the poor. Seoul highlighted the effects of economic deregulation in making the local business environment more vibrant. Bombay First, an initiative of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presented a variety of innovative developments, including the creation of "Business District Projects" aimed at improving the ambience of a local business district, pollution management and providing access to telephone services for the poor.

(Continued on Page 2)

Planning for the first years of the new Millennium was on the agenda for the Thirteenth CityNet Executive Committee Meeting which was held from 1 to 2 November, 1999 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Committee reviewed institutional and programme activities and discussed various Network issues over the two days.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) hosted the meeting in which Mr. Uday Raj Sothi, Secretary of the Ministry of Local Development of Nepal, in his inaugural speech, highlighted the need for intensive co-ordination and collaboration among cities to face the urban challenges. He stressed the need for establishment of a CityNet National Chapter for Nepal which will enable all Nepalese cities to benefit from the activities of the Network. KMC, with support from the Municipality Association of Nepal (MUAN), a new CityNet's member have jointly taken the initiative to set up the Chapter.

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Executive Committee, from Page 1

New membership

The Committee approved the applications from three cities for membership: Janakpur Municipality, Nepal; City of San Fernando, Philippines, and the Council of the City of Kuching South, Malaysia and five associate members: Municipality Association of Nepal (MuAN); D.G. Khan Development Authority, Pakistan; Human and Environment Links Progressive Organisation (HELP-O), Sri Lanka; Kamakura Scenic Preservation Society (Kamakura Trust); and Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE), Japan. CityNet looks forward to having active participation of new members in the Network.

Future activities

The Biennial programme 2000-2001 was presented to the Committee for discussion and approval. One major issue discussed was CityNet's ability and strategy to best fulfil the needs of member cities. To cope with these "demands" efficiently and effectively, CityNet is looking toward the creation of expert teams consisting CityNet members who have expertise in specific fields. CityNet hopes to enlist local experts among member cities and organisations to join these teams so as to encourage effective and stronger technical co-operation among members and partners.

Committee members also touched on CityVoice as well. As CityVoice is a primary method of transmitting information among members, it was hoped that members would make greater use of CityVoice as a medium to disseminate information concerning successes and failures and information that other members might consider useful. In this regard, members are strongly encouraged to share their information by inclusion in the CityVoice. Members are also urged to contribute materials for inclusion in the publication.

Participants

Executive Committee members from Bangkok, Colombo, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Yokohama, the Urban Community of Great Lyon, Urban Housing and Development Corporation Ltd. of India, (HUDCO), and Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) attended the meeting. Also presents were advisor from UN-ESCAP and observers from the cities of South Kuching, San Fernando and MuAN.

The report of the Executive Committee Meeting is available from the Secretariat. □

Fostering Municipal, from Page 1

Fostering "win-win" partnerships

The participants were of the view that there are short and long term benefits of partnerships between the private sector and local government to assist projects and services. Partnerships can enhance urban productivity, contribute to social development, environmental management, and delivery of services. However, partnerships should be treated with care, as each side has potential vested interests. The private sector can be seen to focus on profits and overlooking the human element, while urban communities can be held hostage to politics. With careful planning however these potential pitfalls can be overcome to create a win-win environment.

The discussions examined the ideal conditions that fostered sustainable business - city partnerships. The conclusion was that political commitment and an enabling environment, such as a proper legal framework, continuity of administrative entities and skilled personnel, were critical to the success of business/community partnerships. Participants also opined that consultation with the private business sector is important to determine their interests and pre-conditions for addressing people's needs. A shared long-term vision and corresponding implementation strategy among government, business sector and the community is necessary for effective meeting of sustainability goals. There should also be clear understanding among parties involved of their respective responsibilities, facilitated by clear and transparent procedures.

Participants and Follow-up

The Workshop was attended by 53 overseas and 45 local participants representing local and national governments, national level organisations, municipal associations, the private sector and Ngos/CBos from 18 countries.

A comprehensive internet directory of information on businesses and city governments will be developed for inclusion in the current CityNet's Website. □

CityNet's contribution to a global initiative on decentralisation

At the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements- (Habitat II) in 1996, the conference acknowledged the importance of the role of local authorities in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as the need to decentralize authority and increase collaboration between central governments and local authorities. The United Nations and local governments have started a substantial joint-project which seeks to create a World Charter of Local Self-Government. The Charter would comprise an internationally-accepted, adaptable framework for the practice of local democracy, proving to be a vital contribution to the improvement of living conditions. Initial discussion concerning the Charter has often referred to the principles and ideas stated in the 1995 European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Given a mandate as a focal point for the Habitat Agenda implementation in the region, CityNet provided inputs to the United Nations of the perspectives of the local governments and Ngos/CBos on the draft Charter.

Kathmandu Declaration: Regional Consultation for Asia and the Pacific on the Draft World Charter of Local Self-Government

CityNet, in collaboration with UNCHS, organised a meeting on A Global Initiative for Decentralisation and Local Autonomy - A First Regional Consultation for Asia and the Pacific on the Draft World Charter of Local Self-Government on 5 November 1999 in Kathmandu. The meeting was able to facilitate dialogue on the contents and implications of the draft World Charter, and to exchange ideas and experience on issues related to the Charter. Participants agreed that there is a need to strengthen co-ordination and consultative mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels. They declared strong support for the spirit of the Charter and also recommended consideration of certain changes to the Charter.

Sub-regional meetings for South Asia, East Asia and South-East Asia on the draft Charter are on the cards for the year 2000. CityNet will use several modes to facilitate further discussion on the draft Charter. □

Striving for dignity - urban poor build model houses



A model house exhibition in Kathmandu - Squatter people can come up with their best idea for housing if they are given an opportunity to demonstrate their inspiration.

-Photo courtesy of KMC

Economic expansion in large urban areas attracts growing numbers of rural poor in the hope of finding jobs and a better life. While there are numerous success stories, the more unfortunate end up in squatter communities and shanty towns lacking basic human amenities.

Given a mandate for addressing the needs of the urban poor, CityNet in collaboration with Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Kathmandu Metropolitan

City (KMC), Nepal Basobas Basti Sankrakshan Samaj and Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj organised a 'Housing Exhibition' from 2-4 November 1999 in Kathmandu. This exhibition was held in conjunction with CityNet's Workshop on Business Partnerships. The exhibition featured model houses designed by residents of squatter communities in Kathmandu. The houses depicted their aspirations for adequate housing. They were designed with affordability in mind and meeting basic housing requirements. The exhibition also demonstrated that the squatter communities can, with the proper materials, construct the houses themselves.

Following similar models in India, Cambodia and South Africa, the exhibition in Kathmandu was organised to create awareness among policy makers and the general public on housing needs of the urban poor. The organisers sponsored a seminar entitled, "Security of Tenure: Process, Problems, Achievements," and representatives from CityNet shared experiences in addressing the issues related to urban poverty. More than 10,000 citizens visited and took part in the Housing Exhibition. They expressed high expectations from CityNet to help them find a better life. □

Contact details for Lumanti Support Group for Shelter at Page 4.

Singapore shares management ideas with Bangkok delegates

Success and growth are sometimes difficult to harmonize. With this in mind, a team of urban planners from BMA approached the CityNet Secretariat to facilitate study visits to Singapore to improve Bangkok's project plan on the development of the new urban area, RAMA III. A two-day-visit was arranged from 25 - 27 August 1999 in which the team had the opportunity to have a dialogue with experts from various organisations, including the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Land Transportation Authority, (LTA) and the Sentosa Development Corporation. The three primary considerations taken into account in the development of the city: recognition of the unique social characteristics, consciousness of the constraints of space and the anticipation of future needs were focused on during the discussions.

The team returned to Bangkok with new ideas on how to better foster the RAMA III development project. The most promising aspect of the visit was the possible creation of an Urban Development Corporation of Bangkok, similar to Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority. The team studied waterfront development, a key feature of Bangkok's Chao Praya River Project. The team also examined ways to create business incentives for a new special economic district in Bangkok. □

Contact details for URA, LTA, and Sentosa Development Corporation at Page 4.

CityNet sponsors Training at Partners' Forums

Two training courses of interest to members, attended by CityNet representatives.

KMC benefited from Galilee College

Mr. Prakash Chandra Amatya from KMC completed a diploma course on environmental management at the Galilee College, Tivon, Israel. Studying such subjects as feasibility analysis, project management, and environmental management and science, Mr. Amatya submitted a final project paper entitled "Solid Waste Management of Kathmandu." He was presented with a post-graduate diploma in Environmental Management from Galilee College in November 1999. Congratulations, Mr. Amatya! □

Contact details for Galilee College at page 4.

Webmaster Development Training

CityNet facilitated Bandung's representatives to take part in the Webmaster Development Training Programme organised by The Urban Governance Initiative (TUGI) of UNDP from 6 - 10 December 1999 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

CityNet initiated the establishment of computer networks for better exchanges among members and partners; thus this Course could help members to get and improve access to the Internet. □

Contact details for UNDP - TUGI at page 4.

Call for participation - Transfers of good and best practices

Entering a new millennium, CityNet emphasises the need for more intensive technical and management exchanges; and transfers of good and best practices. CityNet welcomes any inquiries from members who are interested in transferring good and best practices locally through various forms of activities, including study visits and advisory services. Sponsorships may be made available by application.

CityNet encourages members to strengthen the supply side by participating in team members' consultations.

Contact the Secretariat for more details.

Upcoming Events

CityNet Programmes and Activities in 2000

February 1 - 4

The Cities on Water: Harbors, Coasts and Water Fronts, Training-Cum-Study Visits, Yokohama, Japan;

March 6 - 8

Regional Consultation on the World Charter of Local Self-Government for East and Southeast Asia, Chonju City, Chollabuk-do Province, Korea;

March 21 - 25

Learning from Yokohama's Initiative on Recycling, Training-Cum-Study Visits, Yokohama, Japan;

June

Water Supply Training Course, Yokohama, Japan;

September

Workshop on Good Governance, Estahan, Iran;

Ongoing (upon request)

TCDC Best Practices Programme Advisory Services

Contact: World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, UNDP - European Office
11-13, Chemin des Anemones
1219, Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (41-22) 979-9534
Fax: (41-22) 979-9005
E-mail: mohand.cherifi@undp.org

Australian Pacific Healthy Cities Conference, 26-28 June 2000, Canberra, Australia

Contact: Healthy Cities Conference Secretariat
ConSec, P.O. Box 3127, Belconnen Delivery Centre, Act 2617, Australia
Tel: (61-2) 6251-0675
Fax: (61-2) 6251-0672
E-mail: consec@spirit.com.au

Please contact Barry Neame at the Conference Secretariat for information regarding sponsorship

Global Cities 21 - ICLEI World Congress of Local Governments on Transformations for a Sustainable Future, 28 June-2 July 2000, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

Contact: Congress Secretariat
ICLEI's International Training Centre
Eschholzstrasse 86, D-79 115
Freiburg, Germany
Tel: (49-761) 368-9220
Fax: (49-761) 368-9229
E-mail: world.congress@iclei.org

Urban 21 World Conference on the Future of Cities, 4-6 July 2000, Berlin, Germany

Contact: Ulrich Pfeiffer, Empirica GMBH
Kaiserstrasse 29, D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: (49-228) 914-890
Fax: (49-228) 217-410
E-mail: postmaster@empirica-institut.de

Contact information

A selection of organisations cited in this issue of CityVoice are listed below.

Galilee College

Ms. Gila Alony, Director, Programme Development
Division, Galilee College Israel, P.O. Box 1070, Kiryat Tivon, Israel
Tel: (972-4) 983-7444/555; Fax: (972-4) 983-0227
E-mail: galoni@netvision.net.il
URL: <http://www.galilcol.ac.il/>

LTA

Land Transportation Authority of Singapore
Tel: (65) 375-7138; Fax: (65) 375-7208
E-mail: asha_popattal@lta.gov.sg

Lumanti

Support Group for Shelter, Kupandole, Lalitpur. P.O. Box 10546, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: (977-1) 523-822; Fax: (977-1) 520-480
E-mail: shelter@lumanti.wlink.com.np

Sentosa Development Corporation of Singapore

33 Allanbrooke Road, Sentosa, Singapore
Tel: (65) 275-0388; Fax: (65) 275-0161
E-mail: gurjit_singh@sentosa.com.sg

Tugi - UNDP

Mr. Prafulla M.S. Pradhan, Programme Manager, The Urban Governance Initiative (Tugi), UNDP Kuala Lumpur, P.O. Box 12544, 50782 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: (60-3) 255-9122 ext. 2240; Fax: (60-3) 253-2361
E-mail: tugi@undp.org
URL: <http://www.tugi.apdip.net/>

URA

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore, 45 Maxwell Road, URA Centre, Singapore 069118
Tel: (65) 321-8104; Fax: (65) 227-5069
URL: <http://www.ura.gov.sg/>

Acronym guide

Confused by all those acronyms? Here's a guide to acronyms not written out in full in the text.

ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
BLP	Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
CMC	Colombo Municipal Council
HELP-O	Human and Environmental Links Progressive Organisation
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
KMC	Kathmandu Metropolitan City
LAN	Land Transportation Authority, Singapore
MUAN	Municipality Association of Nepal
TCDC	Technical Co-operation among Developing Cities
TUGI	The Urban Governance Initiative
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
URA	Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YOKE	Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges

Editor Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Editorial Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl
Board Uwe Lohse
Peter Swan

CityVoice is the newsletter of CityNet. You are welcome to use and reproduce articles, provided you cite the source and send a copy of the publication to:

The Editor, CityNet,
5F, International Organizations Center,
Pacifico Yokohama, 1-1-1 Minato Mirai,
Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012, Japan
Tel: (81-45) 223-2161
Fax: (81-45) 223-2162
Email: citynet@po.ijnet.or.jp
Homepage: <http://www2.itjit.ne.jp/~citynet/>

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Announcements

Dubai International Award: Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment - call for submission for the year 2000

UNCHS is again offering Awards for Excellence in Improving the Living Environment to deserving Best Practices in October 2000. Submission for consideration should reach UNCHS by **31 March 2000**.

Contact: Best Practice and Local Leadership Programme (BLP), UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254-2) 624-328
Fax: (254-2) 623-080/624-266/624-267
E-mail: bestpractices@unchs.org
Web: <http://www.bestpractices.org/bp2000/>

World Habitat awards - call for entries 2000

The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is calling for projects which "offer sustainable futures to residents and which provide practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems." Preliminary submissions should be made by **July 1, 2000** to:

Contact: BSHF, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3TU, United Kingdom
Tel: (44) 1530-510444;
Fax: (44) 1530-510332;
E-mail: BSHF@compuserve.com
Web: <http://www.bsbf.org/>

Second Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, 3-5 April 2000, Geneva, Switzerland

The themes are "decentralisation, development and co-operation: concrete applications for the eradication of urban poverty."

All staff of CityNet Secretariat would like to wish you, all readers:

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2000 AND NEW MILLENNIUM

Now out!

Member cities or organisations receive one free copy of CityNet publications; you are welcome to buy extra copies. Ask for a publications list from the Secretariat.



◆ **Financial Management of Local Governments in Asia** - Proceedings of the Regional Workshop in New Delhi 1999, deal with role of municipal finance, municipal capacities for investment planning and financial management, resource mobilisation, financing pricing and cost recovery and best practices transfers. 79 pages.

Contact CityNet Secretariat to order a copy.