

Dear Members and Partners,

e-News, CITYNET's electronic newsletter, presents relevant past, ongoing, and future programmes and activities to our fellow CITYNET members, partner organisations, international agencies, private companies, educational institutions, and interested individuals. We hope you will find this issue helpful to your work. In continuing our campaign to share the activities of our members and partners in CITYNET's Network, we encourage you to share the newsletter with your colleagues and friends.

The year 2009 has begun and we hope you've had a very happy new year. The months of January and February at CITYNET have experienced much publication activity. You should soon expect a copy of the *2008 Annual Report, City Profile – Climate and Disaster Resilience*, and *Post-AWAREE Project – First Year Report (2007-2008)* in your mail soon.

CITYNET NEWS AND EVENTS

Training and Action Workshop on Climate and Disaster Resilience in Asian Coastal Cities



Participants from eleven Asian cities gather at the end of the Training on Climate and Disaster Resilience.

Eleven Asian cities gathered together in Da Nang, Vietnam on February 18-20, 2009 to realize techniques, methodologies, and sound practices on achieving climate and disaster resilience in urban coastal areas at the sixteenth series of the Kuala Regional Training Centre programme (KLRTC, also referred to as CIFAL Kuala Lumpur). The workshop titled "Action and Training Workshop on Climate and Disaster Resilience in Asian Coastal Cities" witnessed more than 60 participants.

KLRTC XVI was hosted by the People's Committee of Da Nang. CITYNET, Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, and the Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) – which CITYNET is also a member - organized the event. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Veolia Environnement also provided support.



Sandbags are placed against Da Nang's shoreline as a measure against floods.

The audience, composed of urban stakeholders from mainly local governments and universities, were actively engaged in the discussion of instituting disaster resilient programmes and policies. During the presentation, the participants gained advice from experts and academicians at Nanyang Technological University, SEEDS India, and United Nations University. Field visits were organized at anti-flooding facilities in Da Nang. One interesting innovation, for example, is a special shelter used as an evacuation house for surrounding people during the floodings. The shelter is also used to raise community awareness on disaster risk reduction.

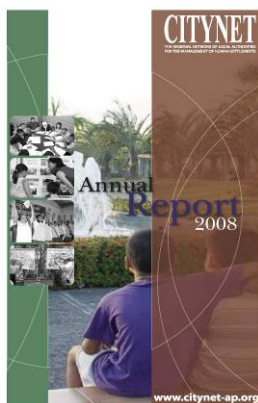
Participants were actively engaged in group discussions. All participants had the opportunity to assess the different statuses of "Climate and Disaster Resilience Level" through the measuring tool known as the **Climate Disaster Resilience Index (CDRI)**. The CDRI quantitatively evaluates five dimensions (natural, physical, social, economic, and institutional) of disaster-resilience capacity. Participants were encouraged to use CDRI as a means to guide for Action Plans against disaster. CITYNET will monitor these Action Plans and will be presented at the 2009 CITYNET Congress to be held between September 8-10 in Yokohama.

A special session was conducted to discuss the draft of "Local Words into Action" (LWA) developed by RTF-URR and UN ISDR. The LWA draft intends to enhance the actions of local actors and governments in order to raise awareness and understanding of the important need to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). During the session, participants found the guidelines useful, and provided comments and feedback to further improve the draft. The main feedback was that the guidelines should be easier to use, as a means for more effective implementation by local leaders.

Overall, the participants found the training useful as it led to an increased awareness on the following issues: climate and disaster resilience, guidelines for localising HFA, general method of learning through the increase of hands-on emphasis in field study visits and exchange of practices and techniques from other cities.

Finally, participants suggest that similar training workshops should be held regularly as it proves to be a cost-effective exercise compared to the expenses of responding to and recovering from disasters through trial and error after the fact. It was also

suggested that real examples of civil-society and community based efforts in DRR be included in the field visit.



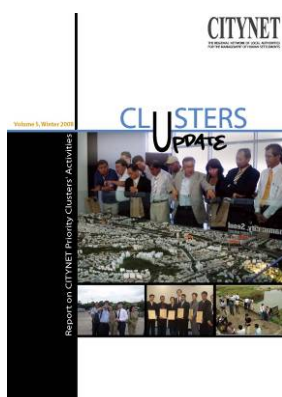
CITYNET Releases the 2008 Annual Report

CITYNET members, partners, and associates will soon receive a hard copy of the 2008 Annual Report. The CITYNET 2008 Annual Report has been specifically tailored to our members by concisely capturing the many activities that we have accomplished for the year.

This year's report is organized into six sections with the following titles:

Introduction, Organisational Developments – *Meeting Local Demands with a Diversified Multi-Stakeholder Approach*; Long-Term Programmes – *Smart Partnerships and Citizen Activation*; Priority Clusters – *2008 Overview*; and Communications – *Status and Development*.

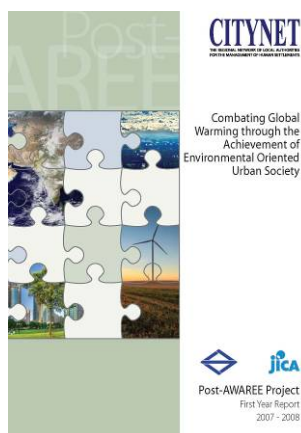
The report is available here.



CITYNET Releases Clusters Update Volume 5, Winter 2008 Edition

The fifth edition of CLUSTERS UPDATE covers the programmes and activities of the five CITYNET Clusters (ENVIRO, INFRA, DISASTER, ICT and MDGs) undertaken from September 2008 to February 2009 and also presents current plans to be implemented. The CLUSTERS UPDATE aims to widely disseminate the activities, progress and achievements of the activities of the CITYNET Clusters. It comprises of reports submitted to the Secretariat by participating cities and organisations, as well as members of Clusters, and also includes summaries of the activities produced by the Secretariat.

The report can be downloaded here.



CITYNET Releases First Year Report of the Post-AWAREE Project

CITYNET released the First Year Report of the Post-AWAREE Project. Following on the heels of the successful AWAREE (Awareness on Environmental Education) project between 2004-07, the Post-AWAREE programme (2007-10) invites participating member cities (Dhaka, Da Nang, Makati, Colombo, Yokohama) to share expertise in improving awareness on environmental challenges and approaches, Yokohama's policies and strategies to combat global warming, study visits to various solid waste treatment facilities, and promoting Environmental Education in local schools. The Post-AWAREE programme combines both the "top-down" approach by encouraging political accountability and vice versa with the "bottom-up" concentration by emphasizing community empowerment.

The First Year Report includes formulations of Action Plans, evaluations of the training programme, and profiles of each participating city. The report is available on the CITYNET website.

CITYNET Members Report on Second Year Progress of Post-AWAREE Project



Yokohama, Colombo, Makati, Dhaka, and CITYNET discuss the progress of the Post-AWAREE Program

Representatives from Makati, Dhaka, and Colombo discussed the annual results of the second year (2008) of the Post-AWAREE programme during a television conference on January 20th. CITYNET, JICA, and the City of Yokohama moderated and advised the direction of the discussion. Substantial progress has been reported in the four participating cities towards the implementation of Action Plans. The City of Da Nang could not attend the meeting.

Some of the main targets that have been reached include:

Colombo:

- Implementation of EE in 12 schools per year and 60 schools for the next 5 years.

- Framework for segregating solid waste into five categories, including organic waste which is later converted into highly fertile compost.
 - Construction of Eco-Kiosks for storing waste.
- Makati:
- Integration of Climate Change Awareness into the basic education curriculum, including city-wide contests.
 - Promoting EE to civil society.
 - Installation of signages made of recycled materials, and encouragement to do the same within the private sector.
- Dhaka:
- Mobilization of school children to understand and participate in Solid Waste Management (SWM).
 - Plans to establish greenery through plantations as a means to improve water resource management.
- Yokohama:
- Advises that community participation from the community about the improved management and installation of hardware serve as an effective measure.

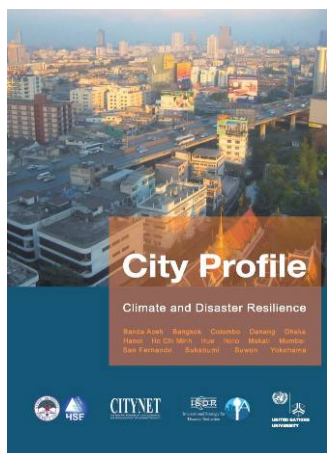
It was noted among the participants that the Post-AWAREE programme has confirmed the real benefits that members gain from CITYNET's flagship City-to-City (C2C), South to South, and North to-South principals. Post-AWAREE is unique in the sense that the C2C emphasis is not merely bi-lateral between two cities but multi-lateral among a few. All cities expressed appreciation to CITYNET, JICA, and the City of Yokohama. The next teleconference is tentatively scheduled for late June. The results of the first and second years of the Post-AWAREE programme will be delivered at the 2009 Congress in Yokohama.

CLUSTER UPDATES

The five clusters of CITYNET (Infrastructure, Millennium Development Goals, Environment, Disaster, Information Communication Technologies) form a substantial part of CITYNET's programmes and activities. We request Cluster Committees to send regular updates at the Secretariat so that the efforts and achievements are better known and understood. For CITYNET members who would like to participate in a particular Cluster and/or contribute articles for this section, please do not hesitate to contact the CITYNET Secretariat.

Disaster Cluster

Publication on Climate and Disaster Resilience Released



CITYNET, in partnership with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Kyoto University, and United Nations University (UNU) recently released a publication entitled "City Profile – Climate and Disaster Resilience". The survey is a result of the umbrella initiative of Kyoto University, funded by the Global COE Program "Human Security Engineering for Asian Megacities", which has research, education, training and implementation components. The partnership, in turn, is in itself a joint initiative referred to as the Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR).

The study recognizes a sobering fact – Asian cities, particularly coastal ones, are the most disaster-prone, and thus local governments must prepare for enormous Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures. *Resilience*, or the capacity of a community to absorb, manage, and recover from natural disasters must be first and foremost measured. The measure of resilience is in turn divided into five categories – natural, physical, social, economic, and institutional through the **CDRI** measure.

"City Profile – Climate and Disaster Resilience" offers such data on 15 Asian cities – Banda Aceh, Bangkok, Colombo, Danang, Dhaka, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Hue, Lloilo, Makati, Mumbai, San Fernando, Sukabumi, Suwon, and Yokohama. The book also provides inputs for the Disaster Resilience policy formulation process.

For more information, [please click here](#).

Environment – Solid Waste Management Sub-Cluster

Phnom Penh Partners with Makati and San Fernando on Solid Waste Reduction

CITYNET has facilitated the establishment of C2C Cooperation Agreement on Solid Waste Reduction between Phnom Penh, Cambodia and the cities of Makati and San Fernando, La Union from the Philippines. The project is supported by UNITAR and the French government.

As a follow-up Action Plan from KLRTC XIV (CIFAL Kuala Lumpur/Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre) Training Course XIV on Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Asia-Pacific held last June 30 to July 3, 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the C2C agreement will establish Technical Advisory Services (TAS) among the cities.

Objectives of the project include:

- institutional strengthening and capacity-building of participating cities and local authorities on school-community engagement in solid waste reduction and its 3Rs (re-use, reduce, recycle).
- effective use of C2C cooperation as a significant tool for sustainable urban development through provision of continuous and professional learning between resource and beneficiary cities.
- The potential of Phnom Penh to implement a decentralised and self-reliant composting system through construction of composting plants.

CITYNET will facilitate the C2C exchanges among the cities, and monitor the progress of the objectives.

Infrastructure Cluster

C2C Cooperation being established between Seoul and Palembang by CITYNET Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Gyeng-Chul Kim

Upon the request from the city of Palembang to gain more insight about Seoul's public transport reforms after KLRTC XV in Changwon on October 2008, CITYNET is currently looking to establish a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between Seoul and Palembang. Seoul's public transportation measures have been impressive since it had proven to be efficient and expansive since 1971.

Dr. Gyeng-Chul Kim from Seoul Development Institute (SDI) who is also the Deputy Secretary-General, established a Technical Advisory Service (TAS) between Seoul and Palembang at the end of December 2008 with a field visit there.

Through the use of the CITYNET Indonesia National Chapter, Dr. Kim also extended the possibility for SDI and perhaps Seoul Metropolitan Government to arrange another MOC with Jakarta under a multilateral C2C framework.

Dr. Kim believes that Jakarta and Palembang have the high potential to become "public transport orientation cities".

MDGs Cluster

First Phase of the Localising MDGs Project Completed

CITYNET completed the first phase of the "Localising MDGs" project at the end of December 2008. The project was supported by two close CITYNET partners, United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and UNHABITAT, and all have collaborated to promote various components such as advocacy through MDGs campaign, transfers of best practices under the C2C cooperation framework, and publication materials. The activities were largely organised through the Satellite Office hosted by MuAN, which is also the host of CITYNET National Chapter.

The project resulted in the localisation of MDGs, particularly amongst Nepalese municipalities. The project has instituted MDGs task forces in each city, prepared the MDGs City Profiles which identifies a set of action plans for implementation.

The success of the MDGs task forces was made possible through the political will of the local governments. Results of the C2C cooperation is expected to undertake the implementations of the Action Plans made by the very local governments themselves.

CITYNET is in final negotiations with UNMC to commence the second phase of the *Localising MDGs* project.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING CITYNET PROGRAMS

C40 Summit SEOUL 2009

Side Event : Climate Change and Energy Efficiency for Asian Cities

Date: May 18, 2009

Location: Seoul, Republic of Korea

The 3rd C40 Large Cities Climate Summit SEOUL 2009 will last for four days from 18-21 May 2009 at The Shilla Seoul. Around 80 cities are expected to be represented for discussion on tackling global warming and climate change. The keynote speaker will be Bill Clinton, former president of the United States and current president of the Clinton Foundation. CITYNET, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) will organise a one-day side event on climate change and energy efficiency for Asian cities. Given that 80% of all greenhouse emissions arrive from the energy production in cities through three sectors – transportation, buildings, and industry – there is an urgent need for local governments to immediately promote strategic practices and policies that reduce energy use and lower greenhouse gas emission.

11th CITYNET Japan Forum

Subject: Human Security and Disaster Management

Date: March 20, 2009

Location: Yokohama, Japan

The Eleventh CITYNET Japan Forum will address the important issue of human security and disaster management. The Forum highlights the strategies and approaches of Mumbai City which has faced not only natural disasters, such as flooding, but also man-made disasters, such as security issues. Mr. Rajendra Valle from the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) is invited to speak about what Mumbai what insights the city has gained from the recent disasters.

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Dr. Rajib Shaw from Kyoto University whose expertise is on disaster management will speak about Japan's experience on managing the disaster risks and its transferability. Kyoto University has been cooperating with CITYNET on various disaster risk reductions, including the joint research and publication on urban risk profiling, training and capacity building programme for local government officials and a pilot project on town-watching to be implemented in Kuala Lumpur.

Register for the 2009 CITYNET Congress!

Harmonious Cities for our Future

September 7-11, 2009, Yokohama, Japan

CITYNET Members, Partners and Friends,

Over a thousand mayors, urban managers and practitioners will gather for the CITYNET Congress 2009 centred around the theme: "Harmonious Cities for our Future." The Congress will feature the 6th General Council of CITYNET, mayors' debate, cluster dialogues, networking sessions, technical visits and an exhibition. Registration for the Congress is now open. Please contact the Secretariat or Email: info@citynet-ap.org to register for the event.



SECRETARIAT NEWS

Updates on events, personnel changes, and happenings at the Secretariat in Yokohama, Japan

Ms. Hannah Koyama, Programme Assistant, Leaves the Secretariat



CITYNET Programme Assistant, Ms. Hannah Koyama, left the Secretariat in Yokohama, Japan at the end of December 2008. Hannah joined the CITYNET Secretariat in June 2007 whilst still a Masters student at the University of Melbourne, Australia. "Learning about the role of local governments in urban development has certainly been an eye-opening experience", Hannah says. As a member of the Secretariat, Hannah assisted in preparations for programme activities and publication materials. She looks forward to staying in Japan to promote inter-cultural communication by establishing a community for collaboration. CITYNET wishes the best for Hannah and thanks her for all the contributions.

CITYNET Welcomes the Newly Appointed Executive Officer, Ms. Akiko Maruyama



CITYNET welcomes Ms. Akiko Maruyama as the newly appointed Executive Officer (EO) at CITYNET Secretariat in Yokohama, Japan. The Executive Officer position is seconded by Yokohama City Hall. Ms. Maruyama brings nearly a decade of experience in working at the Port and Harbour Bureau at the City of Yokohama. Her background is generally in international finance with more specific expertise in the monetary system. In addition, her responsibilities included focus on urban development, citizen advocacy, and promotion for the Yokohama ward. Ms. Maruyama will be an important asset for the coordination of the 2009 CITYNET Congress between Yokohama and CITYNET Secretariat, and the management of Secretariat personnel.

She says, "I was very impressed to work with such devoted secretariat staff and members at CITYNET for an important

international cause" and continues that she will do her best in the collective effort to host the 2009 Congress in Yokohama, Japan. On behalf of the CITYNET family, we appreciate Ms. Maruyama's appointment and look forward to drawing on her experience and skills in our international organisation.

Mr. Kendra Hirata Joins the Secretariat as Programme Officer



Mr. Kendra Hirata joins the CITYNET Secretariat staff as the newly appointed programme officer. Born in Japan, raised in Nepal, and educated in the United States, Kendra brings a unique presence at the Secretariat. After obtaining the MA degree in political science with concentration in international relations, Kendra has ever since worked in the private and non-profit sectors in Japan. With years of experience in Japan as a corporate instructor in human resources and as a manager of a non-profit organisation dealing with overseas medical projects in the South Asian region, Kendra's professional experiences match well with the complex responsibilities required as programme officer. He joined CITYNET since his interest focuses on a wide range of areas in development areas, including education, urban planning, civil and moral society nurturance, and personnel administration. Kendra says "Joining CITYNET gives me such opportunities to work at the international level. I'm very excited to be here with such a diverse, friendly and motivated staff". CITYNET is excited as well! Welcome on board, Kendra!

Satellite Office (SO) in Mumbai

CITYNET established the Satellite Office (SO) in Mumbai, India as an integral part of the organisation's attempt to further decentralise its operations from the Secretariat in Yokohama, Japan. The Satellite Office serves as an extension of the programmatic and communicative duties directed more at the local level. Further, the SO in Mumbai is an essential networking station to connect with other member cities in the South Asian region, especially in India. Herewith, we provide the latest developments as reported by the staff members at the Satellite Office (SO) in Mumbai to the Secretariat in Yokohama. The SO can be contacted through e-mail at citynet.mumbai@gmail.com

CITYNET Presentation at MUNICIPALIKA 2009



Mr. Rajendra Vale delivers a presentation on CITYNET's contributions to Mumbai, particularly on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Disaster and Solid Waste Management at MUNICIPALIKA 2009.

The Satellite Office in Mumbai reports that a presentation was delivered at MUNICIPALIKA 2009 on CITYNET's past, planned, and ongoing activities regarding Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Mumbai on January 30, 2009. MUNICIPALIKA 2009 was a forum which discussed ongoing initiatives to promote urban sustainability as administered by the Local, State, and Central governments throughout India.

The Satellite Office coordinated the task for Mr. Rajendra Vale, Municipal Commission of Mumbai (General Administration, Human Security and Disaster Management) in introducing to the audience about CITYNET's years-long contributions to Mumbai in climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster and solid waste management.

A special thanks to Ms. Seema Marathe, the Satellite Office Manager who assisted Mr. Vale in promoting SO at the event. Mr. Rajendra Vale will deliver a presentation in Yokohama, Japan on March 20, 2009. Please click here for more information.

SUTP-ASIA PROJECT UPDATE

The SUTP-Asia Project (Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Asia) is jointly implemented by Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), CITYNET, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). CITYNET has agreed to provide updates about the project to our members and partners on e-News.

GTZ International Fuel Prices 6th Edition – Release of Data Preview

GTZ released a data preview report of the "GTZ International Fuel Prices" publication. This document provides an overview of retail prices of gasoline and diesel in more than 170 countries in mid-November 2008. More information is available at www.gtz.de/fuelprices.

Download: http://www.sutp.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1369&Itemid=1&lang=uk

4th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum

Location: Seoul, Republic of Korea

Date: February 24-26, 2009

The Ministry of Land Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Government of Korea, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), and the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan will be jointly organizing the Fourth Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum from 24 to 26 February 2009 in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Manfred Breithaupt, GTZ Senior Transport Advisor and Project Director of SUTP, will participate in the event as an International Expert.

Further, as a pre-event to the aforementioned forum, GTZ in co-operation with the Interface for Cycling Expertise (I-Ce, Netherlands) will be conducting a training course on "Non-motorised Transport (NMT)" on the 23rd February. The lead trainer for the course will be Mr. Jeroen Buis (I-Ce).

Please visit: http://www.sutp.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1378&Itemid=1&lang=uk

GTZ SUTP - Summary of Activities in 2008

For the convenience of the people interested in the activities of the GTZ's Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP) a summary of the project activities has been published as a document available for download from <http://www.sutp.org>

The document contains the major publications in 2008 along with the GTZ SUTP's new partnerships and information on the GTZ's Fuel Price data. Any enquiries related to the document can be addressed to sutp@sutp.org

MEMBER AND PARTNER NEWS

News from our members and partners

2009 Asia Megacities Forum

Location: Mumbai, India

Date: April 22-24, 2009

The 2009 Asia Megacities Forum has now been confirmed for April 22-24, 2009 at the Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai, India. The event is organized by the "Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative" (EMI), a not-for-profit, scientific organization dedicated to the reduction of disaster risk in megacities and major metropolises, and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). EMI delivers technical and scientific knowledge to local government officials, policymakers, practitioners, and disaster management technical personnel. The event will unearth current practices by Asian local governments in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and elsewhere, and will make a significant innovative contribution to the agenda of the Hyogo Framework for Action. For more information on the event,

please visit: <http://www.emi-megacities.org/?page=events&id=349>

India: Urban Poverty Report – 2009

"India: Urban Poverty Report – 2009" was recently released by Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Housing and urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and prepared with the support by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on February, 3rd, 2009. The publication is the first comprehensive survey of the urban poor in India.

The report emphasizes more in terms of the social and institutional conditions than an economic analysis. Moreover, there is consideration of the necessary distinction between the urban poor and rural poor. From this point of departure, the report analyzed the situation of the urban poor more through city planning, land management, and policy implementations. Issues covered include basic services to the poor, migration, education and health, livelihoods, and sector analysis.

It is hoped that the publication will help local governments evaluate proper institutional and policy responses in improving the conditions of the urban poor.

The report can be downloaded here: http://data.undp.org.in/poverty_reduction/IUPR_Summary.pdf

CITYNET Member City, Nanjing, is awarded the Habitat Scroll of Honour Award – 2008

The Nanjing Municipal Government was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award "For its bold, distinct, and exemplary revitalization along the Qinhuai River." In response to public demands over the health dangers of the polluted Qinhuai River, which runs through Nanjing, the Nanjing Municipal Government took bold efforts to confront the problem. The local government provided affordable housing, introduced flood prevention areas, relocated businesses and industries to other more sustainable sites, and installed a new waste management system away from the river. For such efforts, CITYNET is proud to have a member whose efforts to improve the lives of its urban residents are known.

Call for Papers

CITYNET Requests Members to Localise e-News and CityVoice

The CITYNET Secretariat encourages every member to locally distribute the two newsletters, **CityVoice** and **e-News** in their respective cities. Our objective is to increase awareness about CITYNET news, activities, expertise, and best practices in urban development and management with local governments, partners, and citizens. CITYNET suggests the following measures to localise the newsletters:

- Translating relevant newsletter contents into respective native languages.
- Reporting on local community activities that may or may not be known or covered by CITYNET yet and have particular relevance to CITYNET's goal of promoting urban sustainability.

Notification about joint self-organized activities between two or more member cities.



Thank you for reading e-News! **Comments, suggestions, and/or feedback** are most welcome.

****Disclaimer:** Please note that CITYNET is not responsible for any changes or inaccuracy in the information contained herein.

We try our best to present you with accurate and authentic information, and hope that it will be useful to you in your endeavours.

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