

CITYNET: The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements

On Public Transport Reforms: *Asian Cities Rise to the Challenge*

While nearly every city has been designed exclusively for private automobiles, sustainability is threatened by the environment, investment, and inequality. Roads use up disproportionate amounts of space that could be otherwise used for the private sector. Gasoline from cars emits deadly carbon dioxide emissions. Traffic congestion dramatically increases commuting time. Many less wealthy citizens feel undignified without ownership of a car. All such factors are elements of unsustainable transportation, and many developing cities are now looking for other viable models to get sustainable transportation right when almost all have historically gone wrong.

transportation management and rapid urbanisation since the 1960s when the population boomed from below one million to about ten million today, a familiar situation among developing cities. Mr. Joon Byeong Yoon, Director-General, Transportation Policy Bureau, SMG explained that since the 1990s, Seoul's policies have emphasised a "human-centred" model as opposed to the de-facto "growth-centred" model when the city focused its transportation infrastructure almost exclusively around the proliferation of personal motor vehicles.

Since then, Seoul has established the "Green City" and "Pedestrian-centred" initiatives, where greenery and walking

less dangerous commutes, cleaner air and water, and spend less money on transportation costs in the near future.

At the Seminar, Dr. Leong Siew Mun, Director of the Urban Transport Department at the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, elaborated on the city's transportation issues. Kuala Lumpur's transportation infrastructure, while still developing, is impressive with its diverse modes of transportation, yet the modal composition on the road of public vehicles has greatly decreased from about 34.3% in 1985 down to about 17.9% in 1997.

As part of Kuala Lumpur's Sustainable Transport Development Strategy, the city is now redirecting businesses away from urban centres, increasing access to bus and rail systems, rerouting roads, and building a city-wide monorail system. The great challenge for many developing cities like Kuala Lumpur, is to remain focused as "simultaneously "growth-centred" and "human-centred." Kuala Lumpur, like Seoul, is also currently seeking to share its experiences on sustainable transport through the KLRTC programme.

Furthermore, Mr. Kimihiro Kuromizu from the City of Yokohama shared the city's transport tactics for sustainable human-based development. Yokohama has improved its transport system for the elderly, a demographic group whose ratio has been increasing in the aging society. Other keynote speakers included Mr. Yonghun Jung from the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APEREC) who discussed the dilemmas of increased transport energy use in Asian cities, and advised that Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, and Seoul demonstrate healthy models of proper governance and public transportation development.

(Contd. on Page 4...)



Restoration of the Cheonggyecheon River; before and after

An exception among developed cities, the City of Seoul has been promoting sustainable transportation challenges with aggressive innovative planning and reforms. On September 8-11, 2008, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and CITYNET organised a Seminar and Training on Sustainable Transportation Systems. The Training was held as part of the CIFAL Kuala Lumpur or Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) XV Programme. **

70 participants representing 15 countries attended the Seminar and more than 20 participants stayed on for the Training. There was no doubt that Seoul's sustainable transportation initiatives to become the environmental capital of the world has become a great inspiration.

Seoul managed to keep pace between

areas are increasingly expanded and inter-connected, and public transportation has become more environment-friendly.

Seoul's most impressive programme is the highly celebrated Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project (2005), a fully locally-financed project which replaced the four mile elevated highway that once covered the Cheonggyecheon River with a riverfront park, walkways, and public squares. The area has appreciated in real estate value, the natural ecology has become balanced, and traffic congestion has decreased – it is now the most visited landmark in Seoul, according to Dr. In-Kung Lee, Director-General of the Urban Planning Bureau at SMG.

Through such sustainable transport reforms, the people of Seoul are expected to experience faster and

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CITYNET Presents Crucial Issues at the 4th World Urban Forum

CITYNET contributed to the 4th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF4) which was organised by UN-HABITAT around the theme "Harmonious Urbanisation" by reporting on three multi-year projects on universal sanitation, localising MDGs, and preventing and mitigating HIV/AIDS between November 3-6, 2008 in Nanjing, the People's Republic of China.

CITYNET presented key findings from the "Sanitation Data Book," at a joint event on sanitation co-organised by UN ESCAP, CITYNET and UNITAR. The key objective of the Data Book is to "set concrete standards that will encourage the implementation of local policies and actions towards improved service delivery." The discussion concluded that active community support, sensible government regulation, and private sector involvement must all cohere to achieve goals for sustainable sanitation.

CITYNET also organised a side event, "Making MDGs Work at the Local Level" to share its keynote multi-lateral City-to-City Cooperation (C2C) programmes and its advocacy efforts in MDGs localisation. The meeting highlighted the lack of information on the "on-" and "off-tracks" in cities, consequently supporting CITYNET's proposal to conduct surveys at the city level.

At the joint Asian Development Bank (ADB)/CITYNET side event on "Preventing and Mitigating HIV in Urban Development Context," CITYNET shared its work on effective multi-sector strategies comprised of civil society and local governments in tackling HIV/AIDS issues. The key points made were that political accountability is directly connected to prevention and care of HIV/AIDS, and from this point of departure, local governments contain the immediate advantage of having close face-to-face contact with citizens.

Restoring Urban Wetlands and Climate Change



Junam Wetlands - One of the few urban wetlands left in the world.

Wetlands absorb roughly 40% of the carbon in the world's atmosphere and are deeply involved in reversing climate change. Yet such precious landmarks are being destroyed. To address these issues, CITYNET organised the International Seminar on Climate Change and Restoration of Urban Wetlands in collaboration with ICLEI, UNESCAP, and Changwon (Republic of Korea) between October 30-31, 2008. The Conference was held in conjunction with the Ramsar Convention.

The seminar concluded that the field of wetland management must be further investigated. What is also not commonly known is that many wetlands are located in urban areas, including the one found in the host city of Changwon.

At the Roundtable Discussion, key actions were proposed and agreed, including the needs for continued advocacy, training and capacity building on climate change, mandatory environmental status reports, and measures and establishing index for policy evaluation.

The CCI-Statement (CITYNET-CHANGWON-ICLEI) on "Human Health and Wetlands" was adopted to reaffirm the importance of the conservation and management of urban wetlands.

CLUSTER DIARY

Environment - Water and Sanitation Cluster

27 cities in the Asia and Pacific region now have useful data included in the Data Book on Sanitation in Asian Cities, albeit with opportunities still to refine and expand their information. The book was initiated and conceptualised by CITYNET and offers raw data and analysis. The publication was prepared with support from Asian Development Bank (ADB), UN-HABITAT, and Veolia Environment. The key findings of the Data Book were shared at the 4th World Urban Forum (WUF4) (see article on left).

To continue its efforts of providing "Sanitation for All," CITYNET in collaboration with partners, will facilitate the adoption of the sanitation indicators into benchmarking programmes.

Disaster Cluster

CITYNET has embarked on a collaboration with Kyoto University on the "Sound Practices and Urban Risk Profiling for Asian Cities Project." The project will result in the creation of an Urban Risk Database of cities on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Following the survey, a training on climate and disaster resilience especially for coastal cities will be held in Da Nang, a fast growing city in Vietnam, between February 18-20, 2009.

MDGs Cluster

Between October 17-19, 2008, CITYNET helped steer the mobilisation of more than 100,000 individuals across Asia to Stand Up and Take Action Against Poverty as part of the Campaign initiated by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC).



24th Executive Committee Meeting Decides on Critical Issues

CITYNET's Executive Committee met for its 24th Session for the first time in Changwon, South Korea on October 29, 2008. The Committee reviewed the outcomes from the previous year and deliberated on several key issues concerning the future direction of CITYNET.

Highlights include:

- * Induction of five new CITYNET members: Hai Phong (Vietnam), Jakarta (Indonesia), Yongin (Republic of Korea), Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities of India (AMDA) and Bombay First (India). (See page 3 for articles on Hai Phong and AMDA).

- * Approval of the Election Procedures for Main Office Bearers of CITYNET 2010-2013 at 2009 CITYNET Yokohama Congress. Main Office Bearers include the positions of President, Vice Presidents, Executive Committee Members, Auditor, and the Secretary-General.

- * Acceptance of Seoul's offer to host the 2013 CITYNET Congress.

MEMBERS IN FOCUS

Hai Phong - The Hub of Asian Commerce

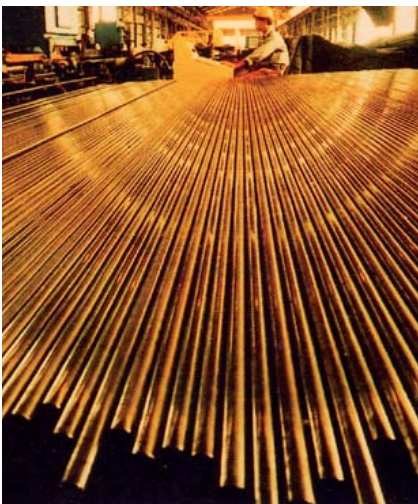
— By Mayor Trinh
Quang Su

Hai Phong, Vietnam

Our city has long been known as a key industrial hub with the largest seaport in Northern Vietnam, easily accessible to huge markets in Southern China and South-East-Asian countries. Located just about 102km from Hanoi and 200km from the Vietnam-Chinese border - Hai Phong is strategically located at the key economic exit point between Vietnam and China. The population of Hai Phong is 1.85 million within an area of 1.519 km², and there is a labor force of approximately one million.

Hai Phong, established in 1888, is famous for its preserved cultural heritage. Our traditional handicrafts such as hand woven woolen carpets, wood sculptures, and lacquer paintings are often made of materials from the sea. Hai Phong is a popular tourist destination of Vietnam, especially with our two famous beaches, Do Son Beach and Cat Ba Island. Cat Ba contains an ecological archipelago which has been recognised as a Biosphere Reserve and millions of tourists visit this popular landmark every year.

In recent years, the City of Hai Phong has been one of the leading growing cities in Vietnam with an unprecedented 11% GDP growth rate in the last few years. The economy is divided as follows: industry/construction (37.6%), services (51.9%), and agriculture (10.5%). Our main industries include construction materials (cement, brick), shipbuilding, ship repairing,



Hai Phong Steel Plant: Among one of the burgeoning industries in the rapidly growing city.

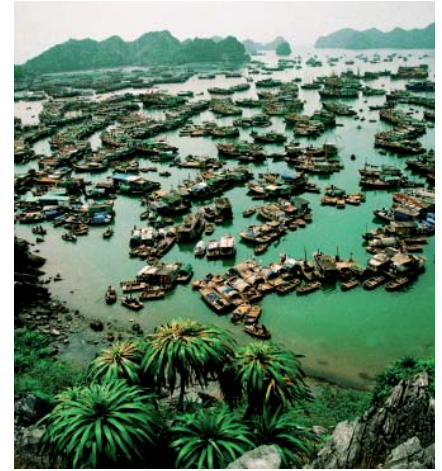
steel reinforcement, and textiles (footwear) for export.

The City's vision is to become the nation's leading economic and sustainable-development model of the country. Hai Phong is advancing initiatives to improve the infrastructural, environmental, educational, and poverty-related situations. The flagship projects include the construction and renovation of the Lach Huyen Seaport, Dinh Vu-Cat Hai Bridge, Cat Bi Airport as an international airport, Ha Noi - Hai Phong Highway, Industries Parks, Economic Zones, International Hospital, and International University.

Hai Phong has spent much effort for improving our management capacities including financial/budget plans and mechanisms, urban planning, urban development, and e-governance.

Hai Phong also focuses on training for an improved labor force and has formed a sizeable fund to support labor training for enterprises from both the local and central government budgets.

Finally, international cooperation is one of our foremost priorities. We joined



Cat Ba Island: The famous archipelago in Hai Phong: one of the world's few biospheres.

CITYNET as a way to promote international relationships, and to offer and share experiences with other members of CITYNET. We hope that Hai Phong will establish a harmonious relationship with CITYNET's expansive network in the coming years. sizeable fund to support labor training for enterprises from both the local and central government budgets.

MEMBERS SPEAK

"AMDA is a centre point for progressive frontier research and action"

- By Dr. Noor Mohammad, Chairman, AMDA and
Member of Secretary of the NCR Planning Board

Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities of India (AMDA) was originally established in 1983 as a think tank and meeting grounds for the planned development of towns and cities in India. Since then, AMDA has become a centre point for progressive frontier research and action in India. AMDA has a three-fold function of advocating progressive urban development issues and policies, serving as an open treasure house of critical urban data throughout India, and ensuring that all levels of government (local, state, central) stay focused on urban development issues.

AMDA advises metropolitan governance structures in order for Indian cities to meet the great fundamental challenges of urbanisation, and thereby achieve harmonious urban development. In particular, our current concerns are the following:

- ◆ **Spatial Disparities** – Government policies are encouraged to promote convergence of the most lagging regions and cities with other areas.
- ◆ **Inequality** – The increasing inequality gap is leading to a divided urban society. There must be strict concern that marginalized and poor citizens should enjoy the benefits of pro-poor growth policies and reforms by local, state, and central governments.
- ◆ **Environment** – Mitigation of environmental costs, ensuring that the local and state governments adopt policies to enhance energy efficiency related to the functioning of the city. The protection of intangible assets such as cultural heritage helps create social spaces that contribute to humanising cities.

AMDA's membership to CITYNET will help promote city-to-city cooperation and facilitate the exchange of experiences that would lead to achieve our goals.

Public Transport ...

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As part of the KLRTC training, participants also assessed their city's performance level using the CityShare matrix – the main element of the KLRTC methodological emphasis - and thereby developed and presented their Action Plans. Such Action Plans include the multi-stakeholder consultation for the feasibility of constructing Information Communications Technology-based bus terminals in Butwal (Nepal); environment-friendly modes of transportation in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam); public transportation upgrading and reviewing of traffic flow street policies in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

During the opening introduction, CITYNET Secretary-General Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl mentioned that "Sustainable Transport is a political problem, not a financial problem," and he continued that cities which initiate workable policies are "ready for reforms and change". In the end, innovative growth-centred and human-centred transport policies will be made possible with enough political will and human ingenuity, and for that, Seoul matters.

** KLRTC is an International Training Centre for Local Authorities (CIFAL) programme, and operates in partnership with UNITAR, CITYNET, City Hall of Kuala Lumpur, and Veolia Environment. The event was the first KLRTC programme held in Seoul.



Mayor of Seoul, Mr. Oh Se-hoon received a Plaque of Appreciation from CITYNET's Secretary-General on September 9, 2008, in recognition of Seoul's remarkable sustainable transport reforms and its contribution to C2C Cooperation in Asian Cities.

ACTIVITIES

February 18-20: Training and Action Workshop on "Climate and Disaster Resilience in Coastal Asian Cities" - Da Nang, Vietnam

May 18-21: C40 Climate Leadership Group - Seoul Summit and CITYNET side event on Climate Change - Seoul, R.O. Korea

CITYNET CONGRESS 2009

Harmonious Cities for our Future

September 7-11, 2009, Yokohama, Japan

Dear 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 to register for the event.



PEOPLE

Dr. Gyeng-Chul Kim Appointed as Deputy Secretary-General of CITYNET



Dr. Gyeng-Chul Kim from Seoul Development Institute (SDI) was appointed as the first Deputy Secretary-General of CITYNET, effective October 1, 2008. Dr. Kim has been an active speaker and participant for the KLRTC Programmes and C2C Cooperation between Seoul and other cities, most particularly in sustainable transport, including the Mumbai Transformation Project.

New Mumbai Satellite Office Manager Selected



Ms. Seema Marathe will spearhead the initiative in Mumbai as the newly appointed Satellite Office Manager. Ms. Marathe brings to the table considerable administrative experience from the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, and is known by her colleagues as a highly-spirited professional.

CITYNET established the Satellite Office in Mumbai as an integral part of the organisation's attempt to decentralise. The Satellite Office will serve as an extension of the programmatic and communicative duties directed more at the local level.

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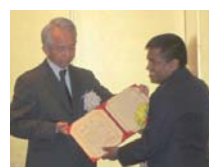
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HELP-O Receives Award



CITYNET selected its member, Human and Environment Link Progressive Organisation (HELP-O) from Sri Lanka for the

21st International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) award by the Japan Housing Association (JHA) on October 20, 2008 in Tokyo, Japan.

HELP-O has been improving the living conditions of the poor through community based empowerment. HELP-O also received support from CITYNET and Yokohama for the construction of a community centre that was afflicted by the tsunami.

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