

Press Release

Pre-APEC International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change for Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities

Background

Climate change threatens our planet. Countries in Asia and the Pacific have already started to experience first hand the serious effects of climate change. Developing countries often prioritise reactionary measures to these adverse effects rather than strategic adaptation and mitigation measures. Despite the many initiatives on mitigating climate change, adaptation has only recently received more attention. Moreover, studies have shown that only a small number of cities have initiated the adaptation planning process. In most cities, a commitment to adaptation needs institutional change to enable decision makers to implement the decisions and policy for useful actions with sustainable outcomes.

Objectives

This Pre-APEC Workshop aims to assist Asian cities to strategically plan for resiliency against the impacts of climate change. The varied expertise and experience of local governments from APEC countries, including Japan will be shared amongst participants. The focus will be centred on the critical importance of adaptation to climate change, issues include, but are not limited to water, food and food security, as well as disaster preparedness.

Date: Wednesday, August 17 - Thursday, August 18

Time: 9:30 - 15:00

Venue: Pacifico Yokohama Conference Center

Support: Yokohama City, APEC, CLAIR

To reserve seats please contact the
CITYNET Secretariat by August 13:

E-Mail: soumu@citynet-ap.org

Telephone: 045-223-2161

Language: Simultaneous English-Japanese

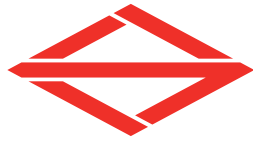


The impacts of climate change include severe droughts which lead to water scarcity (Dhaka River System) (Source: BCCSAP2009)

What is CITYNET?

- CITYNET is an active network connecting hundreds of city/local governments and organisations mainly in the Asia-Pacific region working towards creating resilient, people-friendly communities for all. Programmes and trainings that promote the exchange of expertise and the building of partnerships form the basis for ensuring that governments have the means to cope with increasing populations and demands on our cities. For over 22 years CITYNET has expanded to become a unique and innovative international organisation working with various partners such as UNITAR, UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT, ADB and JICA to enable solutions to urban-related issues such as poverty, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability and climate change.
- By strengthening collaboration within its network, CITYNET targets connecting a thousand more local governments and partners in the near future. For more information please go to:

www.citynet-ap.org



Press Release

Date: Thursday, August 19, 2010

Time: 15:00 - 17:00

Venue: Yokohama Media Communications Center Hall (15 minute walk from Kannai Station, Yokohama)

To reserve seats please contact the CITYNET Secretariat by August 13:

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**Mayor Phil Gordon,
City of Phoenix, USA**



13th CITYNET Japan Forum: The Role of Community in Climate Change Adaptation

Introduction

The Pre-APEC International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change for Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities will be held from 17 to 19 August, 2010 with more than 50 participants from APEC members cities and international organisations expected to join. As the many known and unknown impacts of climate change threatens our planet, the theme of this event will focus on "Adaptation" and its measures. CITYNET encourages and facilitates local governments and partners to implement useful policies/actions for adaptation which requires institutional change and strong commitment.

Speaker and Panelists

CITYNET is pleased to announce Mayor Phil Gordon of Phoenix, USA as the keynote speaker. Other panellists include representatives from Kaohsiung – a CITYNET member since 2004 and the Japanese NPO People for Rainwater. The City Government of Kaohsiung has encouraged the involvement of residents in city administrative activities through the implementation of a consultative style democracy on the premise that "the disadvantages should be looked after as a first priority and urban areas should be developed in a balanced manner." The Japanese NPO People for Rainwater was established by citizen initiatives after the Tokyo International Rainwater Utilization Conference held on the theme of "Rainwater Utilization Saves the Earth" in 1994 in Sumida city, Tokyo.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- * Find out how local governments and community can and are working together for adaptation to climate change.
- * Understand what challenges APEC members cities have faced and tackled in partnership with communities.
- * Express your views and concerns on how to enhance collaboration between local governments and communities.

For Media Inquiries Please Contact:

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