

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

In Focus: Urban Perspectives on Climate Change Adaptation

Cities and provinces in Asia are looking to adapt to Climate Change. What are

the tradeoffs? Where can relevant examples be found that are suitable for Cities here? Are there linkages between Climate Change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)? At the first Regional Workshop on Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts and Related Natural Disasters, held in Makati, Philippines, on May 12-13, 2008, Asian local governments, civil society organisations, and international agencies brainstormed on the future of adaptation initiatives in the Region. The Workshop was jointly organised by CITYNET, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the World Bank's East Asia Sustainable Development Department, and other partners.

There was an overall trend towards adapting to the new reality of climate change during the Workshop, which was presided over by the Mr. Bert Hofman, World Bank Country Director for the Philippines, and the Mayor of Makati, Mr. Jejomar C. Binay. It was agreed that current efforts in this

CITYNET joins partners in organising the first Asian Regional Workshop on Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts and Related Natural Disasters

area suffer from lack of uniform comprehension, coordination, and policy and budgetary support. The idea of 'composite multi-hazard risk adaptation' was introduced, where effects of climate change on temperature and precipitation, cyclones and storm surges, rising sea level, and environmental health risks can be tackled in parallel.

Mr. Rajib Shaw, Chair of the Asia Regional Task Force for Urban Risk Reduction, advocated a three-step risk adaptation process: Assessment – based on precautionary principles and identification of vulnerable communities; Planning – including Municipal Adaptation and Mitigation Plans; and, Implementation – either starting small and gathering momentum, or starting big and scaling down. The Task Force has been initiated by the UN/ISDR and its partners, hoping to provide

policy, knowledge management, and advocacy support to urban bodies, and to promote synergy in the diverse urban space.

Mr. Jerry Velasquez, Asia-Pacific Coordinator, UN/ISDR, laid out the

roadmap for local authorities in their quest for climate change adaptation. He pointed to the need for developing mechanisms, such as multi-stakeholder fora and policy frameworks, to put plans into action, and for fostering a culture of prevention and resilience in cities. With a view to prevention, building hazard-resistant infrastructure in low-risk areas, for example, would improve the disaster preparedness of a city, he pointed out.

The Hyogo Framework for Action and the Bali Declaration, both outlining actions for local authorities on DRR and climate change adaptation and mitigation, were cited as useful guidelines for countries and communities.

In the CityShare segment, cities from around the Region talked about

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"Albay is Championing Climate Change Adaptation"

A conversation with
Gov. Joey Sarte Salceda
Albay, Philippines



Governor Salceda, Albay has taken the climate change adaptation (CCA) route. What do you think is the role of local governments in optimising these adaptation efforts?

Local governments at the provincial level, such as Albay, have resources that they can commit to climate change efforts; they can also play the role of 'champions' for mainstreaming CCA in developing countries. Albay, for instance, has been promoting adaptation strategies all over the Philippines.

What are the key objectives of Albay's Centre for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)?

CIRCA was established by the Albay government and its partners earlier this year to enhance Albay's capacity for climate change research and programme implementation in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, and eco-cultural tourism. It has been making concerted efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation in school, college, and vocational education curricula.

How can citizens be involved in adaptation and mitigation activities?

We have successfully implemented community-based training and public information

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One of the breakout groups during the Workshop



Primer on Climate Change Impacts and DRR Evaluated



The World Bank-GFDRR-ISDR Primer on "Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management in Urban Areas of East Asia," in its draft stage, was introduced to Workshop participants for their feedback. The Primer identifies climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies at the local level based on sound practices from around the Region. Participants examined the case studies, hotspots analysis, usability, linkage between climate change and disaster risk management, and the value proposition of the Primer. Several key recommendations for enhancing the Primer emerged from these discussions; notably, simplification of the self-assessment tool, demonstrating clearer linkages between climate change and disaster risk, and aligning case studies with the hotspots analysis. The final version of the Primer has subsequently been released.

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CLUSTER UPDATES

KLRTC XIV Highlights New Approaches to SWM

The fourteenth course at the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC), held June 30 to July 3, 2008, served as a reminder to all stakeholders for a collaborative approach to Solid Waste Management (SWM) under intense pressure from effects of global warming. 41 participants gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the programme.

One of the solutions to the growing issue of SWM facing Asian cities was suggested by Mr. Adnan Aliani of UNESCAP. He underscored the benefits of decentralised composting, which has shown consistent results in Matale, Sri Lanka, and Quy Nhon, Vietnam. The philosophy behind it, using the 3R approach at every step, has ensured an almost 20% return on investment. Organic waste is turned into compost in small decentralised composting plants, and then used in agriculture to feed the output back into the urban market. The 'trash is cash' idea is proving SWM can generate revenue through sale of organic fertiliser and recycled materials, cooking gas, and end-user fee for products of this system. The incentives have served to improve waste collection and provide a better livelihood for waste pickers.



Similarly, the GIS-based Automated Vehicle Location System (AVLS), introduced by Alam Flora Ltd., Malaysia – where the movement of garbage collection vehicles is tracked to enhance collection route efficiency and response time on vehicle breakdowns – has helped lower the cost of SWM through. Yokohama shared the factors behind its successful 30% waste reduction initiative. The City

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KLRTC is a CIFAL Centre operated in partnership by UNITAR, CITYNET, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Veolia Environnement, UNDP, and other partners.

KLRTC XIII: Flagship Course on Urban Planning Delivers Consistent Results

The Course on Integrated Urban Planning for Sustainable Urban Management has become a mainstay of the KLRTC. The annual programme was held again recently, as KLRTC XIII, to great response from local governments around the Region. 35 Participants attended it, with speakers drawn from the civil, public, and private sectors. The 2008 course covered climate change and global warming for the first time.

Speaking during the course, Ms. Suriati Ghazali from the Universiti Sains Malaysia, highlighted the need for gender-sensitive planning. To prevent marginalisation of any one group, she stated, urban planners have to ensure their needs are taken into account from the outset of the planning process. Mr. David Teller from Veolia Environnement presented the success of private finance initiatives in urban projects, underscoring the criticality of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Case studies presented during the course included Mumbai's

slum resettlement example. Mr. S. S. Shinde, Municipal Commissioner, said their success hinged on slum dwellers' participation, and provision of housing options with good quality services. Participants cited several learnings from the Course, including energy efficiency and green buildings, gender issues, economic planning, and the role of ICTs.

CLUSTER DIARY

Infra Cluster

Makati Advises Kathmandu on Land-Use Planning and Disaster Management: Officials from the Urban Planning Division and Disaster Coordinating Council of Makati City, Philippines, and the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI), visited Kathmandu on a CITYNET-supported and -facilitated visit in April. This city-to-city (C2C) project is focused on land-use planning and disaster management, and both cities are offering and receiving knowledge and expertise from each other. During the visit, Makati officials presented the Makati Comprehensive Land Use Plan and details of their disaster management system. In turn, Kathmandu introduced them to land pooling projects being run by the City, which – though they have a long incubation period – have resulted in more organised housing, better roads, and a heightened sense of community.

MDGs Cluster

Calbayog, Sukabumi Continue C2C Project: Calbayog, Philippines, has been taking a lead in the MDGs Cluster and is engaged in a city-to-city (C2C) project with Sukabumi, Indonesia, supported by UN-HABITAT. Following up on a visit by two of its officials to Sukabumi to assess and advise Sukabumi on MDGs localisation, Calbayog hosted a team from the Indonesian city from May 4 to 8. Sukabumi officials focused on learning from Calbayog's efficient MDGs project coordination, which includes centralised oversight, and visited several project sites. The team reported many take-aways, including involvement of multiple stakeholders, transparency, and community awareness programmes.

Nepali and Sri Lankan Cities Exchange Visits: Kandy City and MaRGG, Sri Lanka, have been providing MDGs localisation know-how and assistance to Bharatpur and Lalitpur, Nepal, under an initiative started in November 2007. In May 2008, the Sri Lankan 'Resource Team' visited the Nepali Cities, and also hosted Nepali officials in an exchange visit in the same month. The outcomes of the two visits include a revision of the MDGs profiles of both Bharatpur and Lalitpur, and the development of a draft action plan leading up to the Cities' 2009 budget allocation for MDGs localisation.

8th CITYNET Japan Forum Held: "No Excuses 2015: The MDGs and Us," was the title of the eighth edition of the CITYNET Japan Forum, held in Yokohama in late April. Deputy Director of the UNMC (UN Millennium Campaign) and its head for Asia, Mr. Minar Pimple, was the keynote speaker at the Forum that proved a platform for a lively discussion on many different aspects of MDGs localisation in Asia. Mr. Pimple elaborated on the UNMC's

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CIFAL Partners Pledge to Continue Cooperation



CIFAL Network Steering Committee members with the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Programme Director, Dr. Bernadia I. Tjandradewi (3rd from Left), represented CITYNET at the Meeting.

Initiated by UNITAR, the CIFAL (French acronym for Training Centre for Local Authorities) Network today includes 11 partners, its multiple-stakeholder approach clear in the inclusion of CITYNET, private companies, and international aid agencies. All CIFAL partners came together for the CIFAL Steering Committee Meeting in early May in Atlanta, USA, to reiterate their commitment and review the progress of the training centres. UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, spoke on the occasion, highlighting the continued need of capacity-building for local governments. The meeting was presided over by the Mayor of Atlanta, Ms. Shirley Franklin, and the Executive Director of UNITAR, Dr. Carlos Lopez. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Programme Director of CITYNET, represented the Network at the meeting. Following deliberations, partners agreed to continue cooperation on CIFAL Centres, and enhance programme focus in areas such as internal governance, transparency, and local legal frameworks. Expanding e-learning and exploring new Centre locations in Russia and the Middle East are some of the future plans of the CIFAL Network.

MEMBER IN FOCUS

WTO: Removing the Toilet Stigma



— By Mr. Jack Sim
Founder and Director
World Toilet Organization
Singapore

World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a global non-profit organization committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide. It was founded in 2001, and we now have 119 member organisations in 47 countries working towards eliminating the toilet taboo and delivering sustainable sanitation. We are driving a market-based strategy to address the dysfunctional market for the poor by installing efficient market infrastructure and positioning the toilet as a status symbol.

WTO is the only Singapore-born global NGO to receive the Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, and the first and only Singaporean Ashoka Global Fellow. In 2008, we have been appointed to the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Water Security and Coun-

CLUSTER DIARY

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role to encourage, inform, and inspire citizens' efforts to hold their government responsible for MDGs achievement. The audience also deliberated on the shortcomings of the MDGs, given that they are not enforceable, rely on aggregates, and depend on donor funding. Mr. Pimple urged the audience to take action at an individual level to ensure the Targets are met, and advocated a 'sunrise attitude' towards their achievement. Citizens were encouraged to organise small events to raise awareness in their own communities. Notably, CITYNET members avidly participate in the annual 'Stand Up' campaign organised by the UNMC to raise awareness on MDGs. The Forum was also addressed by Mr. Hayashihita, from the City of Yokohama, who spoke about Yokohama's support of MDGs achievement.

Disaster Cluster

Members Meet to Discuss Strategy Going Forward: In conjunction with the Regional Workshop on Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change (see Page 1), members of the Disaster Cluster met to review Cluster activities implemented so far and to fine-tune the strategy for future programmes. Cluster chair Makati, co-chair Banda Aceh, Sukabumi, Mumbai, and Kuala Lumpur, prioritised activities in the Cluster action plan to focus on urban risk profiling, a 'Local Words into Action Guidebook', compilation and publication of good practices, training programmes on DRR, and DRR audits of CITYNET member cities.

cil for Social Entrepreneurs. WTO is also the organiser of the series of World Toilet Summits and World Toilet Expo and Forum.

As a global voice for toilet and sanitation, we are constantly learning new ways to advocate and influence. Campaigns and projects to improve toilets and sanitation conditions worldwide are the main focus of our advocacy efforts.

One of the major WTO initiatives is a 2-year project to introduce solutions to the sanitation challenges caused by the Tsunami in Indonesia, entitled, 'Ecologically safe toilets for the Tsunami affected communities,' in Meulaboh and Banda Aceh. In February 2007, a biogas plant and toilet facilities were commissioned in Neuse Park. Biogas production started a week after the commissioning of the plant and the gas is presently being used for cooking in the Park's canteen.

WTO is implementing projects in 12 other locations, and we hope to continue to build awareness and interest in new sanitation options in Aceh. We are currently exploring the possibility of setting up a permanent training and capacity-building centre for sanitation in Aceh, since the sanitation problems faced by the Acehnese will require significant improvement at the local level.

The availability of safe sanitation is a major global challenge; more than a third of the world's population lacks access to adequate sanitation. This problem is particularly severe in urban areas – both peri-urban and urban slums – where lack of adequate infrastructure is com-

pounded by poor access to health and educational facilities. We believe that the provision of sanitation in urban areas is an important investment, which safeguards peoples' health and well-being at both individual and community level, while also protecting the environment.

Every city authority is faced with this issue, and CITYNET's member cities are no exception. We represent the global community of sanitation and are in a position to provide solutions to the problems faced by the leaders of these cities. Our strong international network is able to replicate successful urban sanitation interventions, and we want to share this knowledge so as to help overcome the urban sanitation problems in an innovative and sustainable way.

CITYNET is opening doors for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to overcome urban sanitation problems, and is contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goal of providing safe sanitation for half the 2.6 billion people without adequate sanitation by the year 2015.



A WTO biogas plant under construction

MEMBERS SPEAK

"We are committed to working with Asian local authorities"

Dexia, as we know it today, was formed in 1996 when Credit Communal de Belgique, merged with Credit Local de France. This was one of the first cross-border banking mergers in Europe. It created Dexia - a bank that is among the twenty largest financial institutions in the Euro zone. Our scale and reach allows us to concretely show our long-term commitment to working with local authorities. Our collaboration with the public sector is built on sound expertise, know-how, and a genuine interest in local finance.

Due to our commitment to public and project finance, Dexia has recognized expertise in four sectors of activities: transport, environment, social infrastructure (for example, health and education), energy, and telecom.

For Dexia, our CITYNET membership is completely in-line with our work in Asia. Dexia is very active in the Region and we currently have offices in China, India and a bank Japan. Through CITYNET, we hope to be able to build even stronger links with Asian local communities.



— By Mr. Axel Miller
CEO, Dexia
Belgium

ACTIVITIES

September 8 – 9: Seminar on Transportation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Development, Seoul, South Korea

September 10 – 11: KLRTC XV on Sustainable Urban Transport, Seoul, South Korea

October 29: 24th CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting – Changwon, South Korea

November 3 – 7: World Urban Forum – CITYNET Side Event on Localising MDGs, Nanjing, China

December 2008: Yokohama Waterworks Training Programme, Yokohama, Japan

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report 2007 Released



CITYNET has published its Annual Report 2007, with a summary of the Network's activities during the year, and outlining its progress in terms of projects and organisational structure. The Report has been sent to all members and partners by post, and is also available for download from the 'Resources' section of the CITYNET website: <http://www.citynet-ap.org>

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Urban Perspectives on Climate Change Adaptation

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their climatechange adaptation, mitigation and DRR strategies, allowing participants to benchmark their own work in this area.

KLRTC XIV...

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used a potent mix of government-business-community partnerships and strong Mayoral leadership to exceed targets, achieving 35.9% reduction over baseline 2001 figures. The effort that went into 11,000 briefings with citizens following an increase of household waste segregation categories to 10, proved worthwhile, resulting in absorption of carbon dioxide equal to a forest area of 560 sq. km. – 1.3 times the size of Yokohama. Phnom Penh's experience on environmental education and solid waste segregation in schools, undertaken under the AWAREE (Awareness on Environmental Education) Project of CITYNET, also inspired participants. During the CityShare session, participating cities benchmarked their own SWM practices and policies with these and other examples.

At the end of the programme, Kathmandu, Nepal, and San Fernando, Philippines, agreed to collaborate on the 7-day small-scale composting model presented during the Course. Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Phitsanulok, Thailand, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, joined hands to implement community-based SWM, and San Fernando and HELP-O, Sri Lanka, came together to exchange biogas technology.

Mumbai has improved its disaster response infrastructure and activities considerably since the 2005 floods; Chiang Mai, Thailand, discussed its plans for meeting the target of reducing smog and haze in the City, and cutting the number of air pollution-related patient complaints by half this year. It has been using several strategies, including artificial rain-making, to counter pollution hazards.

Policy frameworks have proven the backbone of environmental initiatives over the past several decades, and grassroots projects have lost their teeth without policy backing. Getting this foundation right has shown positive results in Albay, Philippines. Initiatives, such as Albay in Action on Climate Change (A2C2), which are holistic and have an integrated economic-social-environmental approach, are backed by Albay's Centre for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). The Centre works as a policy think-tank and research base to mainstream climate adaptation at the local level.

Participants at the Workshop also reviewed and gave feedback on The World Bank's Draft Primer on Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management in Urban Areas of East Asia (see box on Page 1).

As the Workshop drew to a close, cities present pledged to mainstream climate change adaptation and provide policy and infrastructure support to implementing these initiatives.

"Albay is Championing..."

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campaigns on the importance of disaster management concepts. The next step for us is a community-based warning system. One of the challenges, we feel, is short public memory for disaster-related information and practices, and we are countering this through persistent efforts.

What are the lessons to be learnt from Albay's approach to climate change?

I think one of the keys to our success has been the institutionalisation of the Albay Provincial Safety and Emergency Management Office – a centralised disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery hub. This has ensured continuity and more effective coordination. Albay has also demonstrated that it is viable to integrate CCA with existing disaster risk reduction frameworks and programmes.

Do you have a message for CityVoice readers, particularly those involved in DRR/CRR activities?

My message would be that if we improve local governments' and communities' capacity to handle climate vulnerability today, we also improve their chances of successfully countering future climate changes. Moreover, our methods today need to be dynamic and scalable, in order to be effective against potential risks tomorrow.

(With inputs from CIRCA)

PEOPLE

Dr. Advani Leaves the Secretariat



After 5 years of working with CITYNET as Communication Officer and Consultant, Dr. Sapna Reena Advani is leaving the CITYNET Secretariat. During her tenure, she edited the newsletters, CityVoice and e-News, and was responsible for the CITYNET website and media relations. "My time at CITYNET has been focused on people – whether it be members, partners, or mediapersons – and I enjoyed meeting and working with them all. People drive causes, and it has been good to see so many talented people dedicated to their cities and organisations. I also look back in admiration at the resilience I witnessed in the non-profit sector," she says.

Dr. Advani is returning to her career in management consulting and training for the private sector, and we wish her all success in her future endeavours.

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