

SPECIAL REPORT

14TH CITYNET DISASTER CLUSTER SEMINAR

Online

November 2021

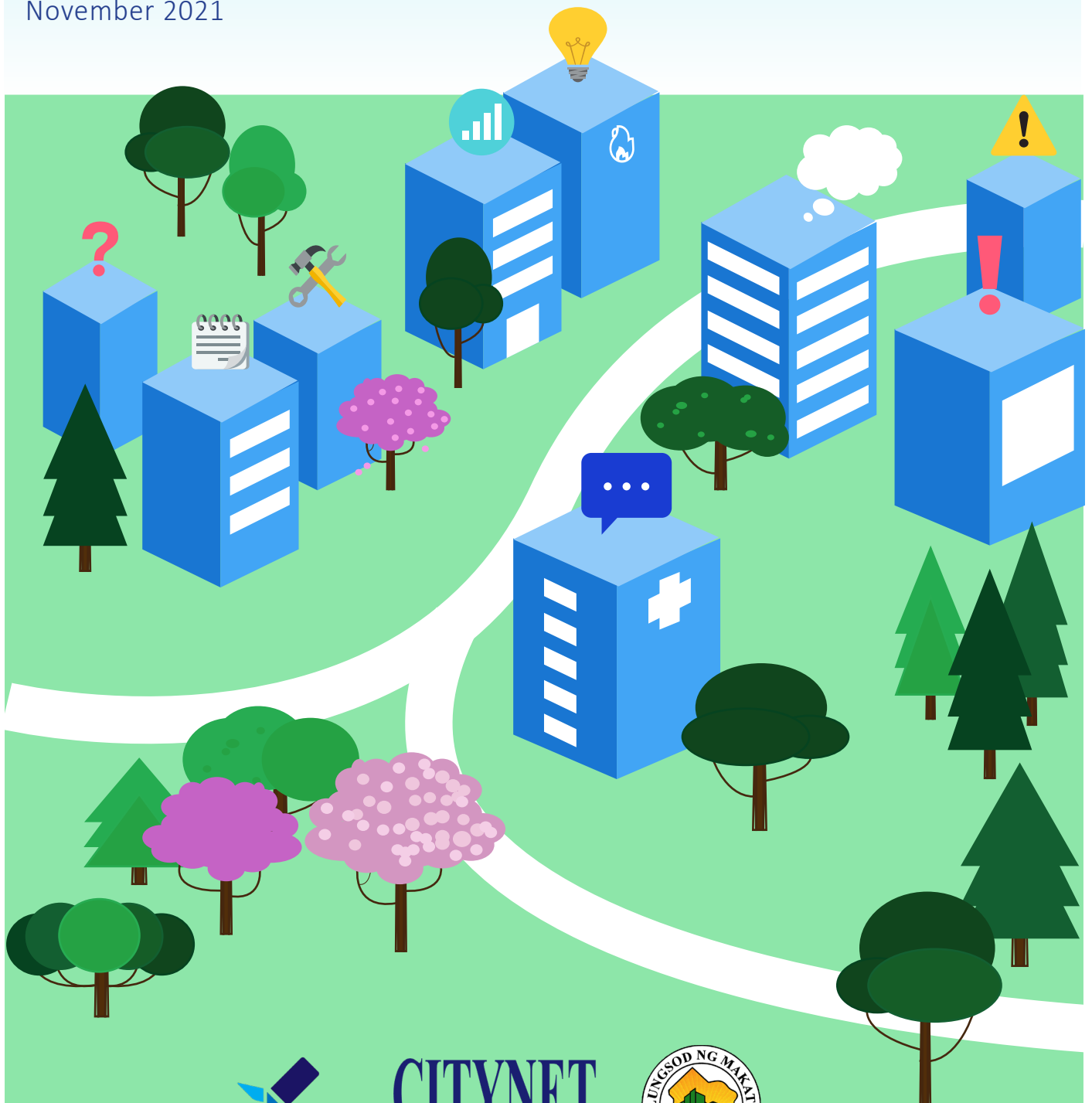


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I. Cluster History

CITYNET is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP and UN-Habitat, the network of cities has grown to include 173 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers.

The CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO) was established on April 1, 2013, to continue providing support and assistance to CITYNET members through projects, workshops, seminars, trainings, technical advisory sessions, symposiums and many other platforms. Through innovative and needs-based programs, CYO fosters city-to-city cooperation for better networking, knowledge exchange, and support for the creative development of societies.

CITYNET's Disaster Cluster, established in 2005, is a group of proactive cities and organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region concerned with reducing the risks associated with disaster. The Cluster was led by Makati until November 2013, when the City of Yokohama was appointed as the lead city during the CITYNET Congress held in Seoul. Makati continues to contribute as the co-lead of the Cluster.

Acknowledgements

The CITYNET Yokohama Project Office would like to acknowledge the resource speakers from various national and local government agencies, local and international organizations, academia, and the private sector whose active participation allowed for many fruitful exchanges and discussions.

CYO would also like to thank the seminar attendees and resource speakers for adapting to the online seminar and providing new, important information about disaster risk reduction in the context of COVID-19. Thank you for your continued commitment to creating disaster-resilient and sustainable cities throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

II. Introduction

The 14th annual CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar was conducted online this year. Three sessions were scheduled for three consecutive weeks in November to look into specific topics that are of interest to CITYNET members.

The annual DRR survey conducted earlier last year in July indicated COVID-19 as the priority topic for all cities. The results showed that cities were still grappling with the effects of COVID-19 and still consider it a challenge. In terms of the Sendai Framework, nearly all survey respondents were able to implement aspects of the framework and found it a useful tool for disaster risk reduction.

November 10: Session I
Role of Cities in Urban Health
Emergencies with a Risk
Management Approach

November 17: Session II
Making Cities Resilient 2030

November 24: Session III
Saving Cities and Its People with
ICT and Data Driven DRR

III. 2021 City DRR Survey Results

Prior to the DCS, CYO conducted a pre-seminar self-assessment survey of participating cities' disaster risk reduction programs and practices to ensure the seminar contents were valuable to all participants. The survey was filled out by 17 cities and yielded valuable information that will help the Disaster Cluster plan future activities.

Most common disasters

-  Floods
-  Health emergencies
-  Earthquakes
-  Typhoons

#1 priority

Mainstreaming DRR across city departments

#1 challenge

Level of disaster awareness

Key COVID-19 Impacts

- Additional training needed for pandemics and health emergencies.
- Cities have changed their disaster responses.
- Cities have both permanent and temporary COVID-19 isolation facilities.
- Cities followed infectious disease plans from either local or national governments to handle the pandemic.
- 67% of city DRR teams became involved in COVID-19 vaccination exercises.
- 78% of cities faced concurrent disasters.

IV. Opening Ceremony

Deputy Mayor Takumi Hayashi welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share knowledge and expertise. He discussed how the idea of "disaster" has now expanded beyond natural disasters to include a more diverse range of crises, and that cities need to expand their capacity to respond to evolving issues. Creating resilient societies will help us prevent worst-case scenarios. He hopes that city-to-city cooperation through CityNet will continue to be a way to contribute to timely responses and to find solutions to urban issues faced by each city. As cities grow, pooling experiences and sharing information will be a critical way to tackle these local and global issues.

The Honorable Mayor Mar-len Abigail Binay welcomed participants and discussed how many cities experienced the devastating impacts of the pandemic and global warming. She noted that the pandemic has highlighted societal inequalities and difficulties with access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. These challenges show the critical role that governments and other stakeholders have in protecting communities and saving lives. By joining forces, governments, the private sector, and academia can collaborate through the Disaster Cluster Seminar to share experiences and knowledge. She ended by noting that these crises can help us learn, discuss, and rebuild resilient communities.

Mr. Kendra Hirata CITYNET Yokohama Project Office	Opening
Mr. Takumi Hayashi Deputy Mayor, City of Yokohama	Welcome Remarks
Hon. Mar-len Abigail Binay Mayor, Makati City Government	Welcome Remarks



Mr. Takumi Hayashi
Deputy Mayor of Yokohama



Hon. Mar-len Abigail Binay
Mayor of Makati

V. Session Summaries

This year's seminar focused on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for health emergencies, improving resilience among cities, and the importance of information collection and sharing.

After an introduction to the seminar, three sessions were held on the topics of the role of cities in urban health emergencies, initiatives to make cities more resilient in the future, and the usage of data-driven DRR to improve disaster response and save lives.

Disaster Cluster Seminar Goals

- SHARE**
To share better practices among CITYNET Disaster Cluster members.
- SUPPORT**
To identify needs and strengthen city-to-city cooperation in DRR.
- LOCALIZE**
Enhance the applicability of lessons learned by understanding local concerns.

Session 1 - Role of Cities in Urban Health Emergencies with a Risk Management Approach

During this session, speakers detailed how their cities have managed the COVID-19 pandemic. This session highlighted health approaches to disease management.

The opening session focused on the innovations and creativity that emerged as cities faced the challenge of COVID-19. The session also discussed how cities improved their general sanitation standards and improved public awareness in response to this crisis.

Dr. Qudsia Huda delivered the keynote message, discussing how COVID-19 has impacted cities and the enduring need for health emergency preparedness. She also noted that cities have the opportunity to build back better by working in partnerships.

This diverse session included experts from the WHO, the Government of Singapore, Makati City Government, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Each panelist highlighted the importance of considering local responses in the context of a global pandemic and how cities can tailor their responses to handle health emergencies. Another common theme was the role of adaptive governance and integrating science and technology into decision-making. Speakers emphasized the importance of outreach to communicate with vulnerable groups.

Efficient and dependable healthcare systems in non-emergency scenarios facilitate better responses to health emergencies. Lessons learned from past health responses, such as SARS and MERS, allowed some cities to respond better to COVID-19. Lastly, the experts highlighted the importance of the public's behaviour and risk perception in determining the success of health responses.




Dr. Qudsia Huda




Dr. Rajib Shaw

Speakers
<p>Dr. Qudsia Huda (Keynote Speaker) Head, Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Unit, World Health Organization Headquarters (WHO)</p>
<p>Dr. Rajib Shaw (Moderator) Professor, Keio University</p>
<p>Dr. Nathalie Roebbel Head, Urban Health, World Health Organization Headquarters (WHO)</p>
<p>Dr. Zheng Zie Marc Ho Acting Director, Contract Tracing and Epidemiology Communicable Diseases Division, Government of Singapore</p>
<p>Dr. Geoffrey Felipe Public Health Emergency Manager Health Department of Makati City</p>
<p>Dr. Emily Chan Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong</p>
<p>Ms. Veronica T. Galbadon Executive Director, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation</p>


Panelists



Dr. Zheng Zie Marc Ho




Dr. Geoffrey Felipe




Dr. Nathalie Roebbel

Commentators



Ms. Veronica T. Galbadon



Dr. Emily Chan

Session 1 - Role of Cities in Urban Health Emergencies with a Risk Management Approach

Key Points

- Coordination between governments and across sectors improves the response to outbreaks.
- Dedicated isolation facilities provide targeted healthcare to suspected and confirmed patients.
- Effective and accurate testing and contact tracing in cities helps reduce infection through targeted public health measures.
- Clear communication with the public on test results and health guidance enables a better response.

**Singapore:
Conclusions from COVID-19**

Be prepared but stay nimble:
Expect the unexpected.

Collaboration and coordination:
Clear centres of command and control with strong links within and across sectors.

Harness technology:
Technological enablers can enhance surveillance and response.

Clear communications:
Well communicated decisions and availability of information enables a whole-of-society response.

Makati Triple T Approach to COVID-19 Management



Session 2 - Making Cities Resilient 2030

During this session, experts in DRR discussed the best approaches for encouraging cities to become more resilient and the best approaches for fostering cooperation and knowledge-sharing between cities.

Session 2 discussed the best methods and strategies that cities can use to become more resilient, monitor their progression towards resilience goals, and tracking best practices in DRR. Experts from the UNDRR, the Province of Potenza in Italy, the World Council on City Data, and the Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction and Learning Center contributed to this discussion.

Among the speakers, shared themes were the importance of implementation and action in ensuring resilience. The UNDRR presentation discussed how the pandemic increased poverty risks in urban areas and emphasized the need for a "new normal". Local authorities can use COVID-19 as a chance to strengthen health systems. Making Cities Resilient 2030 aims to help cities develop their approaches to disaster resilience.

The presentation from the Province of Potenza focused on how the region identifies areas of disaster risk, coordinates resilience planning among different municipalities, and implements urban interventions in at-risk areas. It also highlighted the importance of stakeholder and community engagement in resilience decision-making.

The Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction and Learning Center also provided a virtual tour of the Center to illustrate how Yokohama City turns resilience education into an interactive experience. By providing a hands-on learning facility, the Center facilitates disaster education while also acting as an emergency shelter when needed.

Speakers
<p>Atty. Violeta Seva (Moderator) Senior Advisor, Makati</p>
<p>Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia Head of Office, Incheon, Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) & Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), UNDRR</p>
<p>Ms. Liza Velle Ramos Head, Research and Planning Division, Makati Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Makati City Government</p>
<p>Dr. Alessandro Attolico Executive Director, Territorial Planning, Province of Potenza, Italy</p>
<p>Ms. Helen Ng Executive Adviser, World Council on City Data, Toronto</p>
<p>Mr. Tokuma Takesue Officer, Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center</p>



Atty. Violeta Seva

The World Council on City Data discussed the importance of standardizing city data through common indicators, themes and methodologies. Regularly reported and reliable data helps create data-driven municipalities and track progress on priorities, such as the climate agenda and resilient city development.

Panelists



Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia



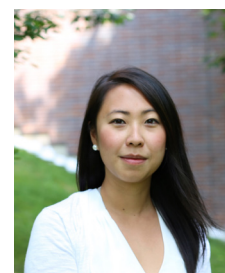
Ms. Liza Velle Ramos



Dr. Alessandro Attolico



Mr. Tokuma Takesue



Ms. Helen Ng

Session 2 - Making Cities Resilient 2030

World Council on City Data (WCCD): Goals for Standardized City Data



Globally standardized



Regularly reported (annually)



Independent/third party verified



One-stop shop for governments

Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center Roles



UNDRR: 10 Things to Know - MCR2030

1. A growing long-term global partnership of 500 cities with a total population of over 300 million.
2. Supports cities to be more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
3. Aims to leave no city behind or alone.
4. Disaster prevention is an investment and not a cost.
5. Recognizes the importance of awareness raising and advocacy but focuses on implementation and action
6. Helps cities develop their own vision of disaster resilience and progress towards it
7. Has an online dashboard for cities to access knowledge, networks, tools, resources, and services.
8. The United Nations, development partners, academia and the private sector all use the MCR2030 to support cities
9. Currently available services include technical support for climate scenario planning, green bonds, and building code revisions.
10. MCR2030 has 11 core partners and a global and regional secretariat hosted and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Session 3 - Saving Cities and Its People with ICT and Data Driven DRR

During this session, panelists discussed the role of data, ICT and technology in improving disaster prevention and response as well as its role in saving lives in emergency situations.

The final session of the webinar discussed how data-driven DRR can improve cities' resilience and save lives through risk reduction. Experts from the World Bank, Bandung City Government, the Seoul Institute of Technology, Taipei Fire Department, Yokohama Fire Bureau, the Government of Australia, and RMS Consulting Co.



The World Bank's presentation focused on ICT's role in city resilience. Localised and appropriate ICT development strengthens cities' capacity to use data and generates insights into each city's specific needs. Access to global datasets can help map urban change and predict where risks may emerge in the future.

Bandung City discussed how it manages earthquake, flood, tornado, and fire risks by optimising data, using social service smart apps, and community engagement. As such, the city uses the Bandung Command Center, social media, and CCTV to monitor and manage disaster risks.

The Seoul Institute of Technology demonstrated how South Korea used data to manage COVID-19. The country used remote work, test-and-trace technologies, and public data to manage the pandemic and monitor outbreaks.

Speakers
Dr. Marqueza Cathalina C. Reyes (Moderator) Associate Professor, Asian Institute of Management
Mr. Nicholas Jones Data Scientist, Tokyo Disaster Risk Management Hub, The World Bank
Ms. Ira Monellia ICT Resources and Development, Bandung City Government
Dr. Junyoung Choi Director, Seoul Institute of Technology Seoul Metropolitan City
Mr. Yifu Lai Officer, Disaster Prevention and Planning Division, Taipei Fire Department, Taipei City Government
Mr. Takashi Kondo Assistant Director, Emergency Operation Center, City of Yokohama
Ms. Rikki Weber Project Leader, Geoscience Australia
Mr. David Lee CEO, RMS Consulting


Taipei City Fire Department's public information service uses social media, traditional broadcasting, and public messaging to communicate effectively. The city's disaster prevention app and incident report system ensure that citizens and the government communicate effectively.

Commentators

Dr. David Lee

Ms. Rikki Weber



Dr. Marqueza Cathalina C. Reyes







Panelists

Mr. Nicholas Jones

Ms. Ira Monellia

Dr. Junyoung Choi

Mr. Takashi Kondo

Mr. Yifu Lai

Session 3 - Saving Cities and Its People with ICT

Taipei City Fire Department: Building Resilient Communities



- Strengthen resilience of cities
- Develop self-help and mutual assistance capabilities
- Establish a disaster prevention mechanism
- Connecting resources existing in the community
- Continuous operation

Yokohama City Fire Bureau: Processing 119 Calls with ICT

- 1 Disaster report:** Center receives 119 calls and reports via fax, emails and the web.
- 2 Receipt of report:** As the call is received, the location of caller is displayed on the screen.
- 3 Identification of disaster site:** Even if the caller does not know the address, caller location identifies it.
- 4 Input of disaster type:** Center inputs the type of incident (fire, ambulance, rescue, other).
- 5 Formation of response unit:** System automatically selects the most suitable unit nearby.
- 6 Dispatch order:** The name of the unit is displayed at the fire station

World Bank: Open Data for Resilience

Increase access to global datasets

- Human mobility data can show how people use public facilities and track where internal refugees go after a disaster.
- Mapping urban change from space helps understand vulnerability to hazards.

Strengthen city capacities to use data

- Bringing data insights to city governments requires a focus on strengthening local data ecosystems.
- Collaboration with universities, tech firms, and civic tech volunteers can help lead this change.

● CITYNET DISASTER CLUSTER MEMBERS

● *As of July 2021*

- 1. Baguio City
- 2. Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
- 3. Barisal City Corporation
- 4. Bharatpur Sub-Metropolitan City
- 5. Bheemdatta Municipality
- 6. Biratnagar Sub-Metropolitan City
- 7. Cauayan City
- 8. Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives-University of Victoria
- 9. Colombo Municipal Council
- 10. Da Nang People's Committee
- 11. Dehiwala- Mt. Lavinia Municipal Council
- 12. Dhaka North City Corporation
- 13. Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City
- 14. Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City
- 15. Galle Development Foundation
- 16. HELP-O
- 17. Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City
- 18. Hue City People's Committee
- 19. Iloilo City Government
- 20. Informal Sector Service (INSEC)
- 21. International Climate Development Institute
- 22. Iriga City
- 23. Jeju Special Self Governing Council
- 24. John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University
- 25. Kathmandu Metropolitan City
- 26. KDDI Foundation
- 27. Lalitpur Metropolitan City
- 28. League of Cities of the Philippines
- 29. Legazpi City Government
- 30. Local Government Academy
- 31. Lumanti (Memory) Support Group for Shelter
- 32. Mahidol University- Kanchanaburi Campus
- 33. Makati City (Co-lead City)
- 34. Marikina City
- 35. Muntinlupa City Government
- 36. Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
- 37. Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City
- 38. Negombo Municipal Council
- 39. National Society for Earthquake Technology- Nepal
- 40. Plus Arts NPO
- 41. Quezon City Government
- 42. RMS Consulting Co., Ltd
- 43. San Fernando City Government
- 44. Seoul Metropolitan Government
- 45. SEVANATHA- Urban Resource Centre
- 46. Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
- 47. Surabaya City Government
- 48. Taipei City
- 49. Taouyan City
- 50. Municipality of Tehran District 2
- 51. Tuguegarao City
- 52. Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges
- 53. Yokohama City University
- 54. Yokohama City (Lead City)

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