

# 2025

## City of Yokohama Annual Report on CITYNET Projects



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2025.7.23



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FY2025



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2026.3



# Introduction

As a member of CityNet, the City of Yokohama has long contributed to the creation of better cities through the exchange of technology, experience, and information. From 1992 to 2013, Yokohama served as CityNet’s inaugural chair city and devoted significant efforts to supporting the operation of the CityNet Secretariat, which was established in Yokohama. Furthermore, in 2013, Yokohama established the CityNet Yokohama Project Office (CYO) as an organization responsible for international cooperation projects, and has since implemented a wide range of international cooperation activities targeting CityNet member cities and organizations.

In fiscal year 2025, Yokohama published its second Voluntary Local Review (VLR), while also promoting international cooperation initiatives aimed at fostering the next generation and addressing urban challenges faced by CityNet member cities. Through these efforts, Yokohama has contributed to the utilization and strengthening of networks among member cities, as well as to the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and decarbonization initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

This report focuses on CityNet-related initiatives implemented by the City of Yokohama and introduces them to a broad audience, including citizens, CityNet member cities, and other relevant organizations, to enhance understanding of Yokohama's activities.

The City will further strengthen its collaboration with CYO and continue to contribute to resolving urban challenges faced by CityNet members by sharing the rich knowledge, experience, and technologies of Yokohama and Japan.

## Foreword from the CityNet Yokohama Project Office

In cities around the world, rapid urbanization is exacerbating a wide range of complex challenges including poverty, environmental pollution, climate change, transportation and energy issues. To address these challenges, the international community has set the goal of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is promoting the development of sustainable cities.

CYO has been working with Yokohama, CityNet member cities, and relevant organizations to promote the sharing of advanced knowledge and technologies possessed by its members across a variety of fields, including disaster risk reduction and climate change, thereby supporting the achievement of the SDGs at the city level.

This report compiles the outcomes of activities undertaken in fiscal year 2025 and introduces a wide range of SDGs-related initiatives, including efforts led by youth as well as activities implemented in collaboration with private-sector entities and related organizations. Going forward, by leveraging the experience accumulated together with the City of Yokohama and CityNet’s extensive network, CYO will continue to contribute to advancing sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific region. We sincerely appreciate your continued warm support and cooperation.



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## What are the SDGs?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are international goals aimed at creating a sustainable and better world by 2030. Consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, they pledge to "leave no one behind" on the planet. The SDGs are universal goals, requiring commitment from both developing and developed countries, and Japan is actively working toward their achievement.



# 1 Yokohama and CityNet Projects

## What is CityNet?

CityNet (Asia-Pacific Intercity Cooperation Network) is a non-profit international organization established in 1987 with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). It consists of 155 cities and organizations (as of March 2026).



The secretariat of CityNet is located in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and promotes activities to build more sustainable and resilient cities through capacity development workshops and intercity cooperation support, enabling member cities to address shared urban challenges.

In addition, with the aim of connecting all stakeholders within cities and providing concrete solutions to urban issues in the Asia-Pacific region, members are organized into three clusters: climate change, disaster prevention and SDGs.



**Climate Change Cluster**  
Lead city: Jakarta City



**Disaster Cluster**  
Lead city: Makati City



**SDGs Cluster**  
Lead cities: Kuala Lumpur City  
Seoul City, Yokohama City

## Yokohama and CityNet

Yokohama has been a member of CityNet since its founding (1987) and was elected as the first Chair City at the first CityNet General Assembly (1989). At the seventh CityNet General Assembly (2013), Yokohama was elected as President Emeritus City in recognition of its contributions to date and continues to serve in this role.

From 2013 to 2022, Yokohama served as the Lead City of the Disaster Cluster and has been making international contributions in cooperation with CYO. These contributions include organizing disaster prevention seminars, hosting training and site visits for member cities, dispatching experts, and implementing long-term support projects based on memorandum of understanding. For example, the City has implemented community-based disaster prevention promotion projects in Iloilo City, Philippines; earthquake reconstruction support projects in Kathmandu City, Nepal; and crisis management human resource development projects in Makati City, Philippines.

In 2023, the City has been appointed as the Lead City of the SDGs Cluster and since then, has been promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs in cooperation with various stakeholders. Specifically, as part of its efforts to promote the SDGs among the next generation, the City has conducted online exchange activities between schools in Yokohama and Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia. This initiative aims to encourage children to take action toward sustainable practices by incorporating the SDGs into their daily lives.

In addition, a CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar has been held in Yokohama, where CityNet members, together with international organizations, private companies and academic institutions, introduced their respective initiatives related to the SDGs and decarbonization, thereby promoting knowledge sharing among CityNet members.

## The CityNet Yokohama Project Office (CYO)

The CityNet Yokohama Project Office (CYO) was established in 2013 following the relocation of the CityNet Secretariat from Yokohama to Seoul, as an organization dedicated to international cooperation initiatives. The office develops international cooperation projects in collaboration with Yokohama for CityNet member cities and organizations.

Mr. Tadahiro Saegusa has been appointed President on July 1, 2025. After joining the Yokohama City Government in 1987, Mr. Saegusa has been engaged in international policy and international cooperation projects for more than 10 years and served as Director General of the International Affairs Bureau from April 2024 to March 2025. Since April 2025, he has also served as Chairperson and CEO of the Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchange (YOKE), where he works to promote the development of a multicultural community in Yokohama.

Drawing on more than 35 years of experience in local governments, Mr. Saegusa continues to serve as Director of CYO. He aims to deepen ties with CityNet member cities and organizations and contribute to further prosperity.

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[CYO Website](#)

# 2 Preparation of Yokohama City's VLR Report



## What is the VLR?

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an international initiative in which local governments around the world voluntarily assess their efforts toward achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publish their findings in a report, with the aim of promoting and advancing the SDG framework.

Originally, The United Nations emphasized the importance of verifying countries' contributions to the SDGs and progress towards their targets at the national level, and international mechanisms have been established to monitor progress. In this context, the importance of addressing global challenges at the local level has also been increasingly recognized, and the VLR is a process designed to make local governments' efforts and initiatives more effective.

As of March 2026, more than 200 municipalities worldwide have published their VLRs. In Japan, nine municipalities including Yokohama, have published their VLRs.

Yokohama announced the publication of its first VLR in October 2021, and the second VLR publication was announced in March 2026.

For more information on VLR, please visit the [UN Website](#).



## Preparation of Yokohama's VLR

In 2025, Yokohama prepared its second VLR. While the content and reporting methods for the VLR are left to the discretion of the reporting entity, several guidelines on preparing VLRs have been issued by United Nations agencies.

When updating this VLR, Yokohama has also referred to guidelines and other materials that had not yet been published at the time of the first report. A thorough review was conducted to ensure that the reporting would better meet the expectations of the international community than in the past.



United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP) Guidelines to be issued (2020, 2023, 2025)

- Important things in the VLR creation process**
- Localization of SDGs  
Progress tracking and reporting
  - Data collection, monitoring and reporting  
Evaluation enhancement
  - Stakeholder engagement  
Peer learning
  - Alignment with national and international goals

Yokohama directly links its policies to the SDGs. In particular, regarding the Medium-Term Plan and the SDGs Future City Plan, the City continues to maintain a system for listening to and incorporating the views of citizens and experts on local issues, the City's initiatives to address them, and its vision for the future. Building on the foundation established to date, this VLR compiles information based on the contents of the Medium-Term Plan (2022–2025) and the SDGs Future City Plan (2022–2025) to serve as a document outlining the City's international initiatives.

In addition, during the drafting of this document, Yokohama received peer reviews from UN agencies (UN-Habitat, ESCAP), other organizations in Japan and overseas (CityNet, IGES, UCLG ASPAC), and partner municipalities (Philippines/Santa Rosa City). The City reviewed these comments and reflected them in the report.



## Features of Yokohama City's VLR 2026

Yokohama has reported on the following as initiatives that contribute significantly to the SDGs.

Economy	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Support for small and medium-sized enterprises and startups including TECH HUB YOKOHAMA	
Social	5 GENDER EQUALITY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Community development that makes it easy for families with children and the elderly to live	
Environment	15 LIFE ON LAND	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	Preparations for the 2027 GREEN x EXPO in addition to decarbonization and a sustainable economy	

This VLR also highlights the City's strengths regarding citizen-focused needs assessments and citizen interviews as part of the process of formulating, reviewing, and updating medium-term plans.

### 3 Activities for Fostering the Next Generation in Relation to the SDGs

#### Exchange activities in fiscal year 2025

In collaboration with CYO, Yokohama has supported exchange activities related to SDGs between elementary schools in Yokohama and schools overseas since 2022. These support activities aim to encourage children to view the SDGs as part of their everyday lives and to take the initiative in practicing sustainable actions. In fiscal year 2025, exchange activities were carried out with two countries: Mongolia and the Republic of Indonesia.

In addition, in order to raise broader awareness of this initiative, its activities are also shared at events for the general public, with the aim of encouraging citizens to be mindful of their own actions toward realizing a sustainable world by 2030. By disseminating these initiatives to CityNet member cities and expanding similar efforts in overseas cities, we seek to further promote the achievement of the SDGs.

Program/Хөтөлбөр	
Japan: 14:00-15:00, Монгол: 13:00-14:00	
14:00, 13:00 Opening Remarks Нээлтийн мэндчилгээ	14:27, 13:27 Questions/advice/suggestions from each group Багууд тус тусдаа хийсэн танилцуулгын дагуу асуулт асууж ярилцах, санал дэвшүүлэх гэх мэт
14:05, 13:05 Introduction of UB23 school initiatives 23-р сургуулийн хэрэгжүүлж буй үйл ажиллагааны танилцуулга	Return to the same room Бүцэд эвний эгнэ/танхимд цугларна
14:15, 13:15 Introduction of Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School Initiatives ММ Хончо сургуулийн хэрэгжүүлж буй үйл ажиллагааны танилцуулга	14:44, 13:44 Presentation (Each group) Багууд тус бүр ярилцсан агуулгаа танилцуулах
Move to individual rooms Багууд тус тусын анги/танхим руу шилжинэ	14:58, 13:58 Closing Remarks Дүгнэлт Хаалтын мэндчилгээ

#### Exchange activities with Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia

In fiscal year 2025, exchange activities were conducted between fifth-grade students of Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School and fifth- and seventh-grade students of Ulaanbaatar School 23. During the exchange session, School 23 presented a report titled “We Thought About and Found Ways to Reduce Waste,” in which they shared what they had learned about upcycling. In addition, they reported on awareness-raising activities aimed at reducing waste, and interactive exchanges were conducted using quizzes and other methods. This year, we also experimented with communication via automatic translation in a metaverse space.

Students of School 23



**Presentation materials from School 23**

私たちは去年、ゴミを減らすための方法を考え、見つけました。

ゴミを活用して自分たちが使うための小物を作ったり、アップサイクルについて色んなことを知ることができました。また、ゴミを減らすために周りに呼びかけたり、手紙を書いたりして周知するための宣伝活動もやりました。ゴミの分別についても周りに情報を発信したり、活動しました。



### Exchange activities with Semarang City, Indonesia

In fiscal year 2025, multiple exchange sessions were conducted between ninth-grade students of Nishikanazawa Compulsory Education School and Universitas Negeri Semarang as well as Jenderal Soedirman University in Indonesia.



For the first exchange session, participating university students prepared English presentations designed to be easy to understand, and exchanges were conducted in small groups within a metaverse environment. In the subsequent session, participants were again divided into small groups and engaged in exchanges in a remote meeting format, during which the Japanese side delivered presentations in English.

#### Introduction of initiatives at SDGs awareness events for citizens

As part of an initiative aimed at raising public awareness, students from Ulaanbaatar School 23 in Mongolia participated in the “SDGs Future City and Environmental Picture Diary Exhibition 2025.” The exhibition was held from November 30 to December 7, 2025, at the atrium and exhibition space on the first floor of Yokohama City Hall.

A total of 15 works were exhibited at the venue. Following the on-site exhibition, the works are now displayed in an online exhibition space.



[Exhibition Website \(Japanese\)](#)



# 4 Holding the CityNet Cluster Seminar

## CityNet Cluster Seminar 2025

In fiscal year 2025, building on the previous year's success, the CityNet Cluster Seminar was held in conjunction with the Asia Smart City Conference 2025 (ASCC 2025), in Yokohama. At this seminar, CityNet members gathered to share their cities' initiatives and insights through seminars and networking sessions.

At the CityNet Cluster seminar held on November 25, CityNet SDGs Cluster and Disaster Cluster Lead Cities and related organizations took the stage. Insights were shared on climate change mitigation and enhancing urban resilience through the CityNet network, and discussions were also held on the relationship between climate resilience and the promotion of circular cities.



CITYNET Cluster seminar speakers

A networking event for CityNet members was held at the Yokohama International Organization Center on November 26, and a total of 22 CityNet members and secretariat participated. The role of CityNet, efforts in cooperation with Yokohama, practices of member cities, etc. were shared, and opinions were exchanged on the theme of "what our city can provide to other member cities / how the secretariat can cooperate", and the significance of sharing experiences and learnings among cities were confirmed.

## Session overview of CityNet cluster seminar 2025

- Theme: Urban policy and resilience in the era of climate change
- Participants: Approximately 100 people (CityNet members from 13 cities and 3 organizations)

Panel discussion



Group photo of the participants



CityNet secretariat and members at the networking event

## Site visit program

A site visit program for ASCC was held on November 27, and 105 people from invited cities and organizations participated. The program was divided into five courses from A to E, and it was an opportunity to learn about efforts related to decarbonization and SDGs in Yokohama. CityNet member cities visited Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School as part of the E course, and deepened their understanding through presentations and experiences on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) practiced by the school.

Presentations from students



Paper craft demonstration



In the afternoon, members of the Disaster Cluster visited the Yokohama Fire Bureau, and exchanged opinions on disaster response procedures, various decision-making criteria, and deepened their mutual understanding.



## Launch of the Asian Circular Cities Declaration (ACCD) framework and cooperation with CityNet

In Europe, the "European Circular Cities Declaration" started in 2020, with approximately 90 cities participating to share policies and best practices related to resource circulation and decarbonization. Believing that a similar mechanism was needed in Asian regions, Yokohama proposed, as the founding city, the establishment of this initiative to international organizations alongside city leaders from various countries at the 14th Asia Smart City Conference, held from November 25 to 27, 2025. CityNet endorsed this proposal and served as a witness. As a result, during the closing session of ASCC2025, ICLEI Japan announced the establishment of the "Asian Circular City Declaration System," and Yokohama was the first city to sign it. This initiative has garnered high expectations from the Ministry of the Environment, UN agencies, the World Economic Forum, and Circle Economy.

### From Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC) to Asia-Pacific Circular Cities Forum (APCC-Forum)

ASCC is an international conference in which Asian cities, international organizations, academic institutions, private companies, etc. collaborate to share knowledge and practices of sustainable city development. Over 2,000 people and 52 cities participated in the 14th ASCC2025. The theme for this year was "Toward an environmentally friendly recycling-oriented society - Circular Economy, Promotion of Carbon Neutrality, and GREEN x EXPO 2027 -". Over the course of 15 sessions, participants shared insights on challenges related to the circular economy and decarbonization, as well as practical examples from cities and cutting-edge technologies, with over 100 speakers taking the stage. It was announced that starting in 2026, the conference will be renamed the "Asia-Pacific Circular Cities Forum (APCC-Forum)" and will be further strengthened as an international platform for sharing insights among cities.



[14th ASCC Website](#)

## 5 Support for Oversea Cities to Achieve the SDGs

### Support for SDGs promotion and VLR implementation in overseas cities

Through CityNet activities, Yokohama has supported SDGs promotion and VLR implementation in various cities. In fiscal year 2025, the City focused on assessing the progress of VLR report development in the Philippine cities of Santa Rosa, Baguio, San Fernando, and Makati, and has been facilitating discussions both online and in person.

Specifically, the City conducted a peer review of Makati City's draft VLR report and assisted in organizing Santa Rosa City's VLR launch event held in September.

### Outreach activities through international conferences and other forums

Yokohama contributes to solving challenges by sharing its knowledge and experience at international conferences and other events.

As part of these efforts, Yokohama presented on the status of its decarbonization and circular economy initiatives at the "2025 Regional Partners Forum on Sustainable Urban Development" (Bangkok, Thailand), and called for participation in GREEN×EXPO 2027 and APUF-9, both to be held in Yokohama in 2027.

Furthermore, in February 2026, in collaboration with the CityNet Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Yokohama held a side event on strengthening governance through VLRs at the "13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development" (held in Bangkok, Thailand). During this event, Yokohama shared its ongoing efforts to strengthen policy capacity and its contributions toward the shift to circular cities in the Asia-Pacific region.



## Hosting of site visits and trainings

In response to requests from CityNet, related international organizations, member cities, etc., Yokohama hosts site visits and training in relevant fields.

## Reception of a delegation group from Himachal Pradesh, India

- Date: July 23, 2025
- Visitors: 9 people including the Minister of Urban Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh State, India
- Contents:

At the request of the All India Inter-Local Government Society (AIIISG), a member of CityNet, a study tour was organized to learn about Yokohama's urban development concepts, as well as the circumstances and challenges faced before and after the implementation of urban planning.

The Yokohama City Crisis Management Office explained the "Yokohama City Earthquake Disaster Prevention Strategy" formulated in March 2025, and initiatives to strengthen regional disaster prevention bases, drawing on the purpose and framework of the city's disaster prevention plan, past earthquake damage and lessons learned. The Office also emphasized the importance of improving disaster prevention capabilities of residents through self-reliance and mutual aid. Participants asked numerous questions regarding earthquake-resistant building regulations, stockpile management, and community drills.

In the afternoon, participants visited the Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center where they learned how to act during a disaster through simulation of earthquakes and fires. The visiting delegation showed strong interest in introducing similar experience facilities within their own state.



## 6 Public Relations Activities Via Websites, Newsletters, and Other Communication Channels

CYO publishes and shares updates on its latest initiatives on the Yokohama City website, the official CITYNET website, and other platforms. Please be sure to check them out!

### Yokohama CityNet Project website

Detailed information about CityNet and the projects that Yokohama and CYO have undertaken to date (see page 2 for the QR code).

### Publication of CYO newsletter

Newsletters (in Japanese and English) are published every two to three months to provide CityNet members and others with details on the latest developments in CityNet projects.



### Published in 2025

- August 2025** Announcement of appointment of CYO new director/  
Reception of a delegation from Himachal Pradesh, India
- January 2026** 14th Asia Smart City Conference/  
CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar 2025/Networking event  
among CityNet members/Site visit programs



CYO Newsletter Website  
(Japanese)

### Y-PORT website

With the aim of supporting solutions to urban challenges in emerging countries and promoting overseas expansion of companies by leveraging experience in city development and technologies and know-how of companies, Yokohama has been implementing projects for international technical cooperation based on public-private partnership through the utilization of Yokohama's resources and technologies (Y-PORT Projects). Please check the website to see announcements regarding various events, such as workshops, as well as practical examples of Yokohama's efforts toward achieving the SDGs.



Y-Port Website

**Publisher**  
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