

13th Asia Smart City Conference

Asian Cities Together for a Greener Future



Announcement of upcoming 13th Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC)

Join Us for the 13th ASCC!

We are excited to announce an upcoming event “The 13th Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC)”, which will be held on October 22 to 24, 2024 exclusively in-person.

[Overview of 13th ASCC]

Date: October 22 (Tuesday), 23 (Wednesday) and 24 (Thursday), 2024

Oct. 22nd: Site visit tour for officials from overseas cities/organizations

Oct. 23rd and 24th: Thematic sessions, Networking/Business Matching Events

Venue: PACIFICO Yokohama North (exclusively in-person)

Program: Please visit the [website](#) for details on thematic sessions, networking and business matching events, etc.

*For information on how to register, please see the notice sent to CityNet members.

*The **CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar** will be held during one of the thematic sessions at ASCC on Oct. 24th (Thur).



13th ASCC Website

[What to Expect]

This 13th ASCC will take place a multilateral initiative, bringing together Asian cities, government agencies, academic institutions, private companies and international organizations such as the World Bank (WB) and Asia Development Bank (ADB), aiming to discuss on realization of decarbonization and sustainable development in Asia, while also seeking

for overseas business opportunities for Japanese local companies in the city. Under the theme of **“Asian Cities Together for a Greener Future”**, the conference will feature with an exciting lineup of keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities to share knowledge and solutions for decarbonization and sustainable urban development in Asia.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an event that promises to be both informative and transformative. We look forward to your participation in making the 13th ASCC a success!

*If you have any inquiries or require further clarification, please contact the secretariat below.

13th Asia Smart City Conference Secretariat: Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.

E-mail: 13th_ascc_secretariat@n-koei.co.jp

Organizer: International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama

E-mail: ki-asca@city.yokohama.jp

Archive of the 12th ASCC:

<https://yport.city.yokohama.lg.jp/en/city-promotion/archive>

Call for Respondents: Questionnaire on SDGs

The City of Yokohama is currently conducting a questionnaire survey to collect the information of current status of **SDGs promotion** of CITYNET members and their challenges to make the CITYNET activities more effectively and interactively. The survey results will be shared with CITYNET members during the networking event at the 13th ASCC to strengthen partnerships among members, examine the possibility of inter-city collaboration, improve SDGs cluster activities, and seek for other opportunities for international assistance.

All CITYNET full members and SDGs Cluster Members (full, associate and corporate members) are kindly requested to respond to the questionnaire fully or as much as possible and submit to CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO) **by Friday, September 20th, 2024.**

URL: Questionnaire for “SDGs” is [here](#).

Contact: CITYNET Yokohama Project Office ki-citynet@city.yokohama.jp



SDGs
Questionnaire
Form

I. Korea Benchmarking Visit on SDGs to Yokohama City

As a collaborative program between the CITYNET Secretariat, CYO and the City of Yokohama, a delegation from Korea visited Yokohama City from July 24th to 27th, 2024. The delegation consisted of **12 members** from various cities and organizations in Korea, as well as three **CITYNET secretariat** members. There were representatives from **Seoul Metropolitan Government, Busan Metropolitan City, Suwon City, Jongno-gu, Dongdaemun-gu, Dobong-gu, the Seoul Institute, the Seoul Digital Foundation, and Seoul Tourism Organization**. The objectives of this visit were 1) to promote learning exchange on SDGs between Yokohama and Korean CITYNET members, 2) to showcase the best practices of SDGs focusing on public administration, citizen and private sector engagement and sustainability, 3) to develop action plans that demonstrate commitment to promote SDGs, and 4) to learn about various SDGs practices in Yokohama through field visits.



Group Photo of the Korean delegation in the Minato Mirai 21 district in the City of Yokohama

Presentation session

The program consisted of various thematic sessions and three site visits. The program began with the welcoming remarks from **Mr. Norio TOMIOKA**, Executive Director of Global Networks Department, International Affairs Bureau. Following this, **Mr. Koki NOMURA**, Manager for Global Networks Division, International Affairs Bureau introduced the overview of the City of Yokohama and friendship between the City of Yokohama and Korean cities. The topics of the thematic sessions included **Public Private Partnership (PPP), Aging Society, Zero Carbon, SDGs and Voluntary Local Review (VLR)**, and the City of Yokohama and relevant organizations shared their experiences and information. In the final session, participants actively exchanged ideas and developed action plans for promoting SDGs in each cities.

In the PPP session, **Mr. Keita TATSUMI**, Deputy Director of Co-Governance and Creation Division, explained the institutional framework and proactive initiatives of the City of Yokohama for promoting PPP. He introduced the unique mechanisms, “Co-Creation Front” and “Sounding Market Research,” which enable the city to solicit a wide range of ideas and opinions from private sectors and markets, fostering collaboration to address SDG-related challenges. Following this, **Mr. Yutaka MIKAMI**, Manager for Global Networks Division, International Affairs Bureau explained an overview of Yokohama’s urban development focusing on the Minato Mirai 21 area, and **Y-PORT (Yokohama Partnership of Resources and Technologies) Program**, an international technical cooperation through public-private partnerships started in 2011. He also introduced city-to-city cooperation with Asian cities like Cebu and Da Nang, as well as initiatives to support solving urban issues by utilizing technologies of Yokohama-based SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) as part of the Y-PORT Program. Next came the Aging Society session presented by **Mr. Sumio KAMONO**, Director of the Senior Citizen Health and Welfare Division, highlighting the **Yokohama-type Community-based Integrated Care System** and introducing their initiatives for the establishment of care plazas, which provide comprehensive consultation and support for elderly welfare and healthcare within the community.



Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Norio TOMIOKA, City of Yokohama



Presentation about the Aging Society



Active Q&A and discussion session by the participants

In the VLR session, **Ms. Yatsuka KATAOKA** from Programme Director of City Taskforce in the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) explained the general ideas and global trend of VLR to the participants. Then, **Ms. Akiko YAMAKOSHI** from Director of Project Administration in CYO explained Yokohama’s initiatives regarding VLR. The last session was given by **Mr. Shin TANABE**, Knowledge Management Analyst of World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC). He showcased some Japanese best practices related to SDGs and pointed out the significance of knowledge sharing in order to solve world-wide problems. After each session, participants enthusiastically gave their opinions and questions to the lecturers. For example, in the Aging Society session, since the aging society is the common severe issue in both Yokohama and Korean cities, the lecturer and Korean participants eagerly discussed how to implement the concept of “**No One Left Behind**” to the policy for elderly care. The City of Yokohama emphasized that it is essential to devise ways to make services available as an extension of their daily lives as much as possible with the help of local stores and DX. In the VLR session, there was a question about the specific approach and positioning of Yokohama's VLR. In response, it was explained that the City of Yokohama has integrated the SDGs into its Medium-term 4-Year Plan, and is utilizing the SDGs framework to review the progress of the plan for SDGs as VLR initiatives.

In the Zero Carbon session, not only **Mr. Masayuki TAKENOUCHI** from Zero Carbon GREEN × EXPO Promotion Bureau of the City of Yokohama but also representatives from four Korean cities gave their presentation to showcase their best practices for zero carbon emissions. The City of Yokohama shared examples of how citizen cooperation through neighborhood associations and government efforts have led to reductions in waste and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The delegate from Seoul introduced “**Green Remodeling Project**” which aims to advance low-carbon and energy-efficient renovation for old buildings. The Busan representative highlighted their development policy based on the “**15-Minute City**” concept, which intends to make every service accessible to the citizen within 15 minutes by bike or



The presentations by the representatives from Seoul Metropolitan Government (upper left), Busan Metropolitan City (upper right), Suwon City (bottom left), and Dongdaemun-gu (bottom right)

on foot without automobiles. The participant from Suwon showcased their unique application named “E-Keeper” which makes GHG emission visible and motivates the citizens to reduce GHG. The delegate of Dongdaemun-gu explained their collaborated initiatives for decarbonization with the private and academic sectors such as promoting recycling of coffee grounds and use of reusable tableware in public events. All of the presentations are full of fresh insights and gave the participants great inspirations for their policies for zero carbon.

Site visit

The Korean delegation participated in three site visits for the program. They first visited **Minato Mirai 21 District Heating and Cooling Co., Ltd. (MM21 DHC)**, a company providing a **high-efficiency district heating and cooling (DHC) system** to Minato Mirai 21 District (MM21 district). MM21 DHC has been supporting the growth of the MM21 district thorough DHC system supplies since its foundation in 1986. As the district and the company developed, the service area of MM21 DHC has become the largest heat supply area in Japan in terms of heat volume sold per unit area. MM21 DHC has been working on decarbonization as well as investing and implementing the latest equipment every year and improving Coefficient Of Performance (COP) of its energy supplies. The delegation took a tour around the plant and learned about the system of DHC and their initiatives of decarbonization.



Study tour of the plant in MM21 DHC



Workshop in Yokohama SDGs Design Center

They also visited **Yokohama SDGs Design Center**, which was jointly established and operated by the City of Yokohama and the private sector. Their role is to connect the SDGs-related needs and seeds of diverse entities inside and outside of the city in order to achieve SDGs. They explained about the “**Y-SDGs**” **certification system** under which the City of Yokohama certifies the enterprises and organizations working for SDGs and gives them many benefits such as bidding, and financial and advisory services. The delegation participated in the workshop to make wooden straws in the Center. The workshop was held to raise awareness of the citizens on SDGs. The delegation reaffirmed the importance of raising awareness of their citizens to achieve SDGs.

They visited the **Yokohama Landmark Tower** located in the Minato Mirai 21 district, the central area of the city. They enjoyed the view of Yokohama from the 273-meter-high observatory and learned about the urban development of the city.



Group Photo in Yokohama SDGs Design Center with their handmade wooden straws after the workshop



The visit of the Yokohama Landmark Tower

Highlights

On July 25th, the Korean delegation paid a courtesy call on the deputy mayor of the City of Yokohama, **Mr. Hirotaka SATO**. Mr. SATO first expressed the gratitude for their visit and long-term friendship between the City of Yokohama and Korean CITYNET members. Then, he mentioned that the collaboration and cooperation across countries and regions are essential to achieve SDGs and Yokohama places great importance on networking with overseas cities. The Korean delegation also showed their appreciation for the program operation and hospitality of Yokohama. The courtesy call concluded with confirmation of further cooperation and knowledge exchanges between the City of Yokohama and Korean CITYNET members.



Group photo after the courtesy call on the deputy mayor of the City of Yokohama, Mr. Hirotaka SATO (center)

One participant mentioned Yokohama City's "Y-SDGs" certification system, which incorporates an SDG perspective into public works bidding, and noted that similar efforts would be a great incentive for private companies in Korean cities to address the SDGs.

In the end of the whole program, the Korean delegation members made an action plan on SDGs initiatives referring the best practices they had learned. They made a list of best practices they would like to adopt in their city and discussed their benefits as well as challenges they would need to solve in order to implement them. Each member presented their opinions from their own perspective and according to each city's situation. For example, one participant mentioned Yokohama City's "Y-SDGs" certification system, which incorporates SDG perspectives into public works bidding, and pointed out that similar initiatives would be a great incentive for private companies to commit to SDGs in Korean cities. Also, in response to the problem of aging, the participants also exchanged opinions on digital education for the elderly through mutual learning among peers and the creation of opportunities for elderly social contribution. Other opinions were also raised on how to solve urban issues using digital technology, such as the use of applications for the visualization of energy consumption and the use of AI chatbots to support waste separation.

After a fruitful discussion, the closing ceremony was conducted and **Ms. Rumi KURITA**, the head of the CYO, made the closing remarks. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the Korean delegation visit and expectation for the further development of the CITYNET collaboration and cooperation. At the end of the closing ceremony, delegation members received the certification of completion of the program. Despite being held during a heatwave, the program covered various urban issues over four days and was highly satisfying for the participants.



Action Plan sharing from each participant



Closing ceremony

II. Hosting the Taoyuan City Government Smart City and Community Development Committee Delegation

On July 16th, a delegation of four members from **the Taoyuan City Government Smart City and Community**

Development Committee visited Yokohama City. The purpose of this visit was to gain insights into Yokohama's activities related to the SDGs and VLRs. The delegation aimed to optimize Taoyuan's VLR and enhance their governance planning and management capabilities. Additionally, they sought to understand how to strengthen international cooperation and public-private partnerships in building a sustainable society.

The visit began with a session on VLRs, where **Dr. Ortiz-Moya** from the IGES provided an overview of VLRs, its significance and global trends. He emphasized the integration of SDGs into the policies, and the importance of utilizing data for analysis and global conversations on sustainability. This was followed by a presentation from the CYO on Yokohama's initiatives related to SDGs and VLRs. The participants engaged actively, asking questions about the process of selecting priority goals, communication with other departments within the city government, and specific methods for reviewing the initiatives.

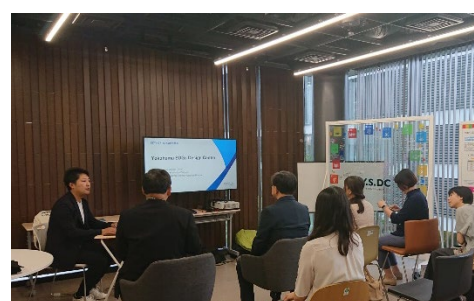
The delegation also visited the **Yokohama SDGs Design Center**, where they were briefed by **Mr. Ishizuka**, covering how the Design Center engages private companies and citizens in its efforts, including the Yokohama SDGs Certification System (Y-SDGs) and the Yokohama Wood Straw Project. The delegates showed a keen interest in the Y-SDGs system, inquiring about how it gained attention from private companies and was effectively promoted. The Center explained that by offering clear benefits such as public relations support and additional points in the bidding process, the initiative gradually gained attraction and widespread adoption. It was a valuable opportunity for both Taoyuan City Government and City of Yokohama to discuss how to gain the cooperation of citizens and private companies, as sustainable city development cannot be achieved by the city alone.



Presentation of VLR from IGES



Group Photo with Delegates from Taoyuan City



The visit of the Yokohama SDGs Design Center

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CITYNET Yokohama Project Office
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