



## I. Happy New Year!

Thank you for your support and friendship in the past year! May 2025 be a happy and prosperous year for all CITYNET members. In the past year, CYO has implemented various kinds of activity with CITYNET members. We would like to look back on last year's highlights.

In January 2024, we had a big event of the 12th Da Nang Urban Development Forum at Da Nang City Hall, where participants shared visions and action plans for promoting sustainable development. In the last summer, CYO accepted on site visit from Korea and Taiwan, where attendees have discussed how to proceed with SDGs activity. Besides, last October, CITYNET SDGs Cluster Seminar started as a part of Asia Smart City Conference. More than 120 participants came to the seminar and discussed synergy among SDGs and Climate Change counter measures. As a sub-event of this seminar, networking event to make our connection deeper was held as well. In winter season, as part of SDGs Youth action program, CYO supported students from some cities of CITYNET members to attend Environmental Picture Diary Exhibition. As mentioned above, we have successfully implemented a variety of programs.

In this year, we are planning to hold some interesting and useful events as we did as last year. Through these activities, we would like to make the network among CITYNET members stronger and build commitment to establish more sustainable and resilient cities.

## II. SDGs Youth Action Program

Continuing from the past program in 2023, CYO promoted SDGs Youth Action Program in 2024. The biggest difference compared to previous year's program is that the program started to utilize VR technology for exchanging activities. In the VR room, students can show their presentation material and communicate with each other by operating VR characters.

On Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, the first online exchange meeting was held between Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School, Japan and Ulaanbaatar 23rd School, Mongolia. The 4th grade students from both of schools presented their daily activity on SDGs and asked various questions to each other. For example, "How do Japanese students clean rooms by themselves?", "Are there enough trash boxes in your city area?" and "When you discuss with your classmate, what opinions on upcycle were suggested?" As both school students consider SDGs in their daily life, everyone got interested in the other countries' environmental issues and opinions on it. On Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, the second online exchange meeting was held between Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School and Pedurungan Tengah 2 Elementary School in Semarang city, Indonesia. In this exchange meeting, not only presentations on student's daily SDGs activities but also opinions on the future city they want to live in were discussed. These opinions were organized and students got fully familiar with each other.

CYO will continuously support their exchange activities toward fostering the next generation.



*Presentation from Ulaanbaatar 23<sup>rd</sup> school, Mongolia*



*Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School, Japan*



*Group photo with Pedurungan Tengah 2 Elementary School, Indonesia*

## III. Participation of the Trainings on Voluntary Local Review (VLR) as a Speaker

The City of Yokohama participated in a two-day online webinar on VLR and SDG Localization for Local Governments in Asia Pacific Region, organized by **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)** in partnership with **United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)** on 13 and 14 November 2024. Providing practical guidance on preparing and conducting VLRs with interactive sessions, the webinar program aimed at enhancing the capacity of local governments in Southeast Asia to localize and report on the SDGs through VLRs as well as fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among local governments. In Day-2 of the program, **Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi, International Affairs Bureau of City of Yokohama** shared their knowledge and best practices of Yokohama City's VLR as one of the leading cities in achieving SDGs in the Region. Following the presentation session, a number of questions raised from the participants regarding VLR process, Japan's system related to SDGs monitoring and so on, and City of Yokohama responded accordingly based on their experience.

In addition to that, on November 28, 2024, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines, hosted an orientation event to San Fernando City's Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which the previous 13th ASCC encouraged and inspired the city with conducting VLR initiative to create a sustainable community ensuring the city's strategies aligned with SDGs. **Mr. Norio Tomioka, Executive Director, International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama**, and other City of Yokohama and CYO representatives participated online in the orientation. This event brought together a distinguished group of participants, including **Hon. Mr. Hermenegildo A. Gualberto, City Mayor** of San Fernando City, city department managers, section heads, city officials handling SDG-related activities, external partners from San Fernando City, and **Arch. Donna Tabangin, City Planning and Development Coordinator of Baguio City**.

**Mayor Gualberto** made the opening remarks by addressing the importance of SDGs and the City's commitment to undertake VLR, inspired by insights gained at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASCC. Following that, **Mr. Norio Tomioka** gave an opening address mentioning Yokohama's dedication to supporting San Fernando City in achieving its SDGs targets, including decarbonization and urban development. Then, the City of Yokohama provided an overview of VLR process, sharing current supports of other CityNet member cities' VLRs, and potential support for San Fernando City's VLR. During the session, the participants from San Fernando City, including **Mayor Gualberto**, actively engaged in questions and discussions, expressing strong interest in the VLR process. It is anticipated that this orientation event laid a solid foundation for future cooperation between two cities in achieving the SDGs of San Fernando City.



*Presentation by Yokohama City at the webinar on VLR*



*The orientation event on San Fernando City's VLR*

International Organizations Center 6F, Pacifico Yokohama  
1-1-1 Minato Mirai Nishi-Ku, Yokohama, JAPAN 220-0012  
TEL: +81-45-221-1214  
E-mail: CITYNETyokohama@gmail.com



CITYNET Yokohama Project Office  
supports the SDGs.