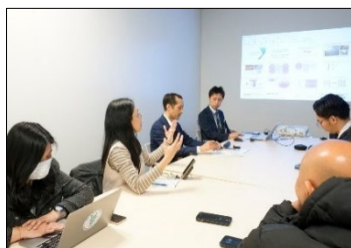




I. The City of Makati's Disaster Prevention Site Visit to Yokohama

From February 6 to 10, 2025, a delegation from the city of Makati, Philippines visited Yokohama City. This program has aims to exchange knowledge and expertise on disaster prevention, with a particular focus on the management of community disaster prevention hubs, the operation of governmental function during disasters, and initiatives for earthquake and large-scale fire response. The delegation consisted of five local government officials who engaged in discussions on practical issues in responding to large-scale disasters. Given that both cities are highly urbanized with limited open spaces available for emergency shelters, the visit provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas on how to manage disaster prevention hubs effectively.

The program began with a site visit to the Fire Department Headquarters Government Building. The attendant could explore the whole building and its variety of functions, such as sanitation equipment, photovoltaics equipment, firefighting communication command equipment, and video display system at command center. These functions are designed to ensure continuity of firefighting operation even in large-scale disasters. On February 10, the delegation visited the Yokohama City Hall, where they attended lectures by city officials from the City of Yokohama on two key topics. One is about initiatives and measures against fires that happened after earthquakes in highly dense areas. And the other is about management of community disaster prevention hubs, which serves as emergency shelters, food and water supply stations, and information center during disasters. After these lectures, they visited the Crisis Management Office and its disaster prevention facilities, including an earthquake-resistant system in the Yokohama City Hall. Other activities included participation in the 29th Earthquake Disaster Prevention Technology Expo, a tour of the Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center, etc.



Site Visit by the City of Makati – Fire Department Headquarters Government Building and City Hall

II. SDGs Youth Action Program

Continuing from the previous CYO newsletter, we held an additional exchange meeting as part of SDGs Youth Action Program in 2024, which aims to encourage youth to explore issues in their daily lives from the SDGs perspective through provided exchange events. The exchange meeting was held on 19th February between Minatomiraihoncho Elementary School in Yokohama, Japan and Ulaanbaatar 23rd school in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In the previous exchange meeting held in December 2024, students introduced their daily initiatives against littering. Two months later, students from both schools shared the result of their initiatives. Students from Yokohama city showcased a special trash box that can be settled outside. Students from Ulaanbaatar introduced awareness posters promoting waste separation. During the meeting, not only the presentations but also some quizzes about both countries' cultures are introduced. After the presentations, students discussed their visions for the future cities they want to live in. These opinions were illustrated in a drawing, incorporating both Japanese and Mongolian languages. Through this exchange event, students developed a deeper curiosity about each other's culture and initiatives on SDGs. We look forward to seeing their efforts succeed in the future!!



The Exchange Meeting between Mongolia and Japan



Visions for the Future Cities

III. City to City Cooperation Program on SDGs/VLR

Supporting the City of Santa Rosa in VLR Process

The City of Yokohama annually hosts the Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC), fostering discussions and knowledge exchange among urban leaders and practitioners across Asia-Pacific region on sustainable urban development. Within this framework, the CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminars have recently placed a strong emphasis on VLRs, providing a platform for cities to share insights, challenges, and best practices. Through these discussions, cities such as Santa Rosa have demonstrated strong commitments to VLR initiatives and successfully launched their own VLRs.

As part of its city-to-city cooperation initiatives, the City of Yokohama had the privilege of providing peer review support for Santa Rosa's VLR. Leveraging own experiences and best practices, the City of Yokohama and CYO offered comments and suggestions to ensure that the report meaningfully reflects Santa Rosa's achievements and aspirations. Notably, this collaboration may mark the first peer review of a VLR conducted between two Asian cities, highlighting the importance of international partnerships in addressing shared urban challenges and advancing sustainable development.

Speaking and Networking at an APFSD Associated/Side Event

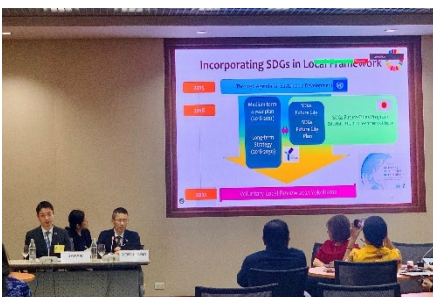
The City of Yokohama participated in the 12th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from 25 to 26 February 2025 at United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The APFSD is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum that supports Asia-Pacific countries in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reviewing regional progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ahead of the APFSD, the **Local and Regional Government Assembly: Advancing Multilevel Collaboration for SDG Localization** was held on February 24, organized by Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG) through the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), Asia-Pacific Localization Partnership for Sustainable

Cities (APLP-CITIES), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This event served as a platform for local and regional government leaders and representatives from Asia-Pacific region to discuss their commitments to the SDGs, particularly Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 in alignment with the focus of the 2025 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). During the **VNR (Voluntary National Review)-VLR (Voluntary Local Review) Dialogue Session**, **Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi, Director of International Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama**, took the stage alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He presented the City's efforts in VLR process and SDGs localization, and engagement with Asian Cities for VLR implementation. Additionally, he highlighted the city's collaboration with the central government on SDG initiatives and decarbonization efforts. Following this, **Mrs. Arlene B. Arcillas, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, Philippines**, launched the City's first VLR, which the City of Yokohama supported through peer review.



Photo during Local and Regional Government Assembly



Presentation given by Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi, City of Yokohama During VNR-VLR Dialogue Session



Greeting the Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa and Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi during the event

In addition, the City of Yokohama co-organized the **“Maximizing Local Impact: SDG Localization and inclusive action in Southeast Asia” side event** on February 25 during the APFSD. Aiming to draw attention to SDG localization practices across Southeast Asia, the side event was jointly organized with UNDP, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), the City of Santa Rosa, the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, and other co-organizers including the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). During the side event, the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shared their efforts for local action linked to national ambitions in their VNR, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia for SDG (APPGM-SDG) presented the roles of Parliamentarians in the process of localizing SDGs in Malaysia. Following that, IGES Japan shared their experience and insights into the VLR processes.

The event also featured **Mrs. Arlene B. Arcillas, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, Philippines**, who presented the insights from Santa Rosa's VLR process and its collaboration with the City of Yokohama. **Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi** provided comments on Santa Rosa's VLR initiative, emphasizing highlighting the City of Yokohama's honor in supporting Santa Rosa's VLR, the significance of the diverse stakeholder engagement in Santa Rosa's VLR process, and opportunities for new partnerships through VLR activities. After the side event, the both cities continued discussions on potential further collaborations, including post-VLR activities, invitation to the 14th ASCC in 2025, etc.



Presentation of VLR outcomes by the Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa



Providing comments on Santa Rosa's VLR by Mr. Noriaki Yokouchi



Group photo of VLR team from the City of Santa Rosa and the City of Yokohama

IV. Initiative in the upcoming fiscal year

The following events and initiatives are being planned and considered for 2025. Details will be announced on our website soon.

SDGs Youth Action Program (All year-round)

The City of Yokohama and CYO will support exchange activities related to the SDGs between schools in Yokohama and overseas cities such as Mongolia and Indonesia. In addition to online interaction, the exchange of works such as videos and picture diaries will be promoted. Activity reports will be presented at a citizen event scheduled for around November.

Promoting SDGs and supporting VLR implementation in overseas cities (All year-round)

In order to promote the spread of VLR among CityNet member cities, the City of Yokohama and CYO is going to share its efforts and knowledge regarding SDGs and VLR, and promote the involvement in the implementation of VLR in partner cities in collaborating with international organizations.

CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar (November)

Along with the 14th ASCC scheduled to be held in late November, CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar will be held. We plan a program together with the Lead and Co-lead of the SDGs Cluster and the CityNet secretariat, and to publicize it around August. We look forward to seeing you in Yokohama!

13th Da Nang Urban Development Forum

Since signing a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation with Da Nang City in 2013, Yokohama City has been hosting an urban development forum every year as part of technical cooperation. In 2024, the forum was held in Da Nang City, and in addition to discussing the themes of eco-industrial parks, waste management, smart city development, and SDGs/VLR, which are key areas of cooperation with Da Nang City, business matching and site visiting were also held. In 2025, the forum will be held in Yokohama.

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