



## Thank You for Attending in the 14th Asia Smart City Conference!

The City of Yokohama hosted the 14th Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC) at PACIFICO Yokohama from November 25 to 27, 2025. The ASCC is an international conference held every year under the cooperation of international organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and CITYNET, bringing together representatives from Asian cities, governments, academic institutions, and private enterprises to discuss issues related to sustainable urban development that achieves both economic growth and a favorable urban environment.

This year's 15th session featured the theme of "Towards a Circular Society - Promoting the Circular Economy and Carbon Neutrality", in which representatives from more than 50 overseas cities and institutions as well as approximately 2,000 people from Japan and overseas participated, and lively discussions were held at various seminars, discussions, and exhibition booths by companies and organizations.

In this conference, city leaders and representatives from international organizations presented new initiatives for promoting circular cities in Asia, and decarbonization and cutting-edge technology in Yokohama, as well as the circular society to be announced at GREEN×EXPO 2027. In addition, in the exhibition area, as a showcase of technologies and solutions related to urban issues, initiatives for decarbonization, circular economy, and urban issues by companies and other organizations were introduced, and representatives from companies and overseas cities and institutions discussed issues related to the circular economy and decarbonization and their solutions. On the 26th, "Asian Circular Cities Declaration(\*1)" was announced, and Mr. Takeharu Yamanaka, Mayor of City of Yokohama signed as the first signatory city.

(\*1) [Yokohama leads Asian Circular Cities Declaration as first signatory at ASCC 2025](#)

# 1. CITYNET SDGs Cluster Seminar 2025

On the first day of the ASCC, CITYNET SDGs Cluster Seminars on the theme of climate change countermeasures and urban resilience improvement were held. More than 80 CITYNET members and international organizations participated, and discussions were held to further promote SDGs initiatives such as climate change countermeasures, resource circulation, and disaster prevention in the Asia-Pacific region.

\* An overview of the seminar can be viewed from the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xsfjSyGJdw>

In this seminar, Mr. Hirotaka Sato, Deputy Mayor of City of Yokohama and Mr. Chang, CEO of CITYNET Secretariat delivered opening remarks, and in the keynote speech, Ms. Mariko Sato, Board member of Japan Habitat Association, gave a presentation on the importance of urban planning and community formation regarding climate change countermeasures. During the presentation and panel discussion, each city gave a presentation on the following topics.

- Seoul Metropolitan Government “Seoul's 2050 Net-Zero Strategy for a Sustainable Environmental City”  
Presenter : Mr. Lee Dong-Gil (Manager, Climate and Environmental Policy Division)
- Kuala Lumpur City “Kuala Lumpur’s Transition towards a Sustainable and Resilient Future”  
Presenter : Mr. Nik Mohammed Faizal bin Nik Ali (Senior Deputy Director, Building Division)
- City of Yokohama “Disaster prevention measures of City of Yokohama”  
Presenter : Mr. Daisuke Kuroiwa (Executive Director of Crisis Management Department, General Affairs Bureau)
- Quezon City “Urban Policy and Resilience in the Era of Climate Change”  
Presenter : Mr. Donnie Ray Marquez (Chief, Research, Planning, and Special Projects Division Registered Criminologist)
- Ministry of the Environment Japan “Climate Change Adaptation”  
Presenter : Ms. Ayuko Kobayakawa (Deputy Director, Climate Change Science and Adaptation Office)
- CITYNET Secretariat “CITYNET Activities Promoting the Circular Economy and Related Initiatives”  
Presenter : Mr. Christopher Di Gennaro (Senior Program Officer)



*Opening Remarks by Hirotaka Sato,  
Deputy Mayor of Yokohama*



*Opening Remarks by Chang,  
CITYNET CEO*



*Keynote Speech by Sato  
Japan Habitat Association*

Mr. Osamu Mizuno, Climate Change Program Director of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) moderated the seminar, and the following questions and answers were held in a format that followed up each presentation, emphasizing the importance of developing measures while creating synergies such as adaptation and mitigation to climate change and coexistence with nature.

### **[Seoul Metropolitan Government]**

Q: Specific details of natural disasters facing Seoul City, disasters that the city government is prioritizing, and how do you consider the viewpoint of sustainable development when implementing responses to these issues?

A: Since a heavy rain disaster occurred in Seoul City in 2022, we are focusing on responding to this problem, and issuing a rainfall warning is one countermeasure. And the impact by extreme heat is significant in summer, and we are continuously strengthening responses to heat waves by deciding adaptation strategies to heat waves every year. On adaptation strategies to climate change, we are correcting and adding plans every 5 years.

### **[Kuala Lumpur City]**

Q: What are the latest climate-related disasters facing your city in recent years, and what adaptation measures are being implemented for them?

A: Kuala Lumpur has been facing two climate-related issues in recent years, urban floods due to local heavy rains and urban heat island phenomena caused by high-density development and high energy consumption. Therefore, we are promoting resilience improvement of cities and construction of sustainable urban environments by complex approaches such as upgrading of smart flood management systems, expansion of urban solutions, improvement of infrastructure, strengthening of early warning systems utilizing IoT, promotion of urban greening, introduction of cool city design, and promotion and expansion of circular economy.

### **[City of Yokohama]**

Q: In the fields related to disaster prevention and today's discussion, please introduce any initiatives or ideas related to carbon neutrality.

A: From the viewpoint of disaster prevention, we are emphasizing utilization of green infrastructure rather than newly improving any hard infrastructure. For example, we are making maximum use of flood control functions and water retention capacity of existing farmlands and forests, and reducing the load and impact on rivers and sewers by devising road pavements. We believe that promoting disaster prevention measures utilizing natural forces will contribute to carbon neutrality as a result.

### **[Quezon City]**

Q: The efforts towards capacity development is impressive. What specific measures are there in the field of hard infrastructure to deal with the issues of your city that you introduced?

A: In the hard infrastructure field, "Urban Drainage Master Plan" is positioned as one of the main measures. This is a comprehensive plan decided as a basic guideline for flood countermeasures in cities, and evaluations of existing infrastructure are also carried out, while geographic and geological characteristics (soil and moisture conditions) and socioeconomic effects of cities are assessed.

### **[Ministry of the Environment Japan]**

Q: Please share guidelines on specific examples and important points for promoting synergies between adaptation/mitigation measures to climate change and biodiversity conservation.

A: There are measures such as planting forests and improving green infrastructure in urban areas. These function as absorption sources by forests and contribute to realization of carbon neutrality. It is important not to promote only adaptation measures, but to develop measures while being aware of synergies with carbon neutrality and nature positivity.

### **[CITYNET Secretariat]**

Q: What points are often overlooked or underestimated when cities implement climate change countermeasures and urban resilience enhancement?

A: Nature-based solutions and green space development in cities are often not well evaluated. In addition, utilization of local wisdom and traditional culture is also important, but it is an element that is often overlooked.

Lastly, after the closing remarks by Ms. Tomomi Yamashita, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama, a commemorative photo session was taken to close the session.



*Panel discussion*



*Group photo by speakers and CITYNET members*

## 2. Networking Event Among CITYNET Members

On November 26, the second day of ASCC, a networking event for CITYNET members was held in the common conference room of International Cooperation Center, Yokohama City, and 22 CITYNET members and related parties were able to deepen exchanges. The event was facilitated by Mr. Chris Di Gennaro and Mr. Kendra Hirata. After Mr. Kendra Hirata announced the role of CITYNET for SDGs and disaster prevention, Noriaki Yokouchi, Director of International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama, introduced efforts by cooperation between CITYNET and Yokohama. Next, Mr. Daisuke Shiba of Ehime University, Mr. Masafumi Takaoka of Matsuyama City, and Kirtee Shah of Habitat Forum presented SDGs and disaster prevention efforts in each city and organization.

In the latter half of the event, a discussion was held on the theme of "What can my city (being a CITYNET member) offer to other CITYNET members, and how can CITYNET secretariat cooperate?" Taking advantage of this community where various Asian cities gather, sharing experiences and learnings with each other led to reconsideration of efforts their own city, and lead to lively exchange of opinions.



*Discussion by the CITYNET members*



*Discussion by the CITYNET members*



*Presentation by the CITYNET secretariat*



*Group photo of the secretariat and CITYNET members*

### 3. Site Visit Program

On November 27, ASCC's site inspection program was held, and 105 people from invited cities and organizations participated. Five courses from A to E were prepared, and in each tour, they were able to learn about efforts related to decarbonization and SDGs of Yokohama through tours of facilities in the city. CITYNET member cities who joined the E course visited Minatomirai Honcho Elementary School and were able to learn about efforts related to ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) conducted by the school through presentations from students and hands-on experiences.



*Brief explanation from the principal*



*Presentations from students*



*Paper craft practice*

In the afternoon, members of the Disaster Cluster visited the Yokohama Fire Bureau. They toured the facilities, exchanged views on emergency response procedures and decision-making criteria, and deepened their mutual understanding.



*Yokohama Fire Bureau*



*Group photo*

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