

# City of Yokohama Annual Report on CITYNET Projects

# 2024



CITY OF YOKOHAMA





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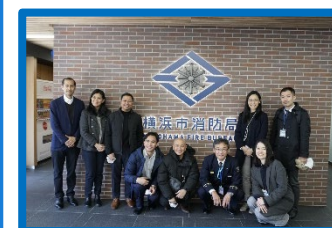
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# Introduction

As a member city of CityNet, the City of Yokohama has been contributing to build a better city through exchange of technology, experience, and information. From 1992-2013, as the first CityNet President city, the City of Yokohama played a crucial role in supporting the operations of the CityNet Secretariat which was established in Yokohama. Furthermore, in 2013, CityNet Yokohama Project Office (CYO) was newly established as an organization responsible for international cooperation projects and has been carrying out these projects for member cities and organizations.

In FY2024, the City of Yokohama promoted international cooperation activities, especially for the development of the next generation and for solving urban issues of CityNet member cities. Additionally, the City of Yokohama has worked to utilize and strengthen the network with CityNet member cities while promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and decarbonization initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. In this report, the focus is placed on the CityNet projects that the City of Yokohama has been implementing, so that by introducing them to a wide range of citizens, CityNet members, and other related organizations, the activities will be better known to a wider audience.

The City of Yokohama will continue to further deepen its cooperation with CYO and contribute to solving urban problems faced by CityNet members by sharing the wealth of knowledge, experience, and technology available in Yokohama and Japan.

## Introductory Message from the CityNet Yokohama Project Office



**Rumi Kurita**  
The Head of CityNet  
Yokohama Project Office

In many parts of the world, rapid urbanization is aggravating complex urban issues such as poverty, environmental pollution, climate change, traffic congestion, and depletion of energy resources. In response to these challenges, the international community has set forth SDGs and is promoting efforts to achieve harmonious economic, social, and environmental development by 2030.

CYO, in collaboration with the City of Yokohama and CityNet stakeholders, is promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs at the city level by mutually disseminating and sharing the advanced technologies and knowledge of each member in multiple fields, including disaster prevention and climate change.

This report summarizes the progress of SDGs-related initiatives in FY2024, and describes a wide range of activities, including the efforts of youth who will shape the future and the introduction of various SDGs initiatives promoted in cooperation with businesses and others.

Together with the City of Yokohama, efforts will continue to lead the way in creating sustainable cities in the Asia-Pacific region, drawing on our accumulated experience and utilizing the CityNet network.

Continuous efforts will also be made to meet your expectations. We sincerely ask for your warm support and cooperation.

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## What is SDGs ?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are international goals to achieve a sustainable and better world by 2030, consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, and pledging to “leave no one behind” on the planet. The SDGs are universal goals that not only developing countries but also developed countries are working toward, and Japan is actively involved in the SDGs.





# 1 CITY OF YOKOHAMA AND THE CITYNET PROJECT

## What is CityNet?

CityNet is a non-profit international organization established in 1987 under the auspices 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), which consists of 162 cities and organizations (as of December 2023). With its secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the organization promotes activities to build more sustainable and resilient cities by holding capacity-building workshops and supporting inter-city cooperation in order to address urban issues faced by member cities.

In addition, with the aim of connecting all urban stakeholders and providing concrete solutions to urban issues facing cities in the Asia-Pacific region, the member cities are divided into three clusters: Climate Change, Disaster, and SDGs.



## Yokohama City and CityNet

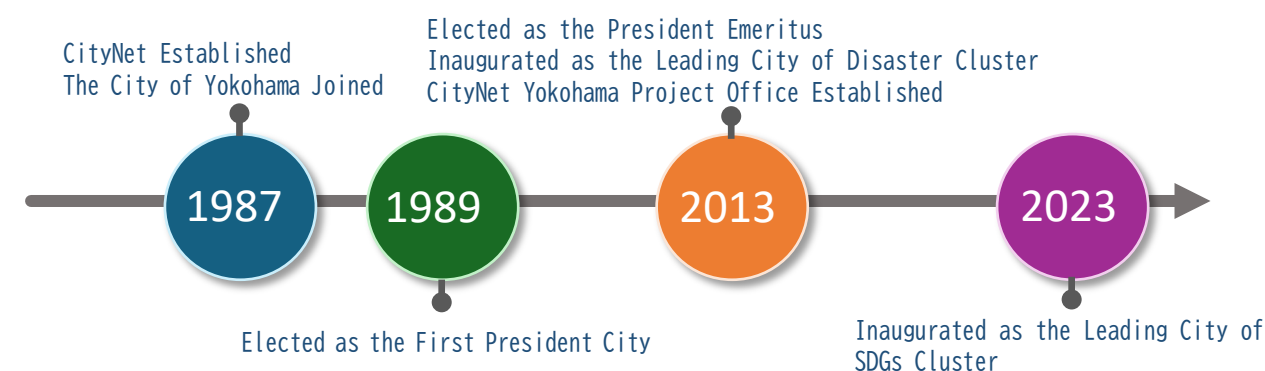
The City of Yokohama has been a member city of CityNet since its establishment in 1987 and were elected as the first President city at the 1st CityNet Congress in 1989. Subsequently, at the 7th CityNet Congress (2013), the city was elected as the President Emeritus in recognition of its past contributions, and continues serving that role today.

In addition, the role of the leading city of the Disaster Cluster was undertaken from 2013 to 2022, and, in collaboration with the CYO, international contributions have been made through the organization of disaster reduction seminars, the hosting of training and site visits from member cities, dispatching experts, and providing long-term support projects based on memorandum of understanding. For example, community disaster reduction promotion project in Iloilo City, Philippines; an earthquake reconstruction assistance project has been carried out in Kathmandu City, Nepal; and a crisis management human resource development assistance project has been undertaken in Makati City, Philippines.

Since 2023, the role of leading cities of the SDGs Cluster has been held, and efforts to achieve the SDGs have been promoted in collaboration with various stakeholders. Specifically, as part of our efforts to promote the SDGs among the next generation, online exchange activities have been implemented between schools in Yokohama and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to encourage children to recognize the SDGs as part of their daily lives and to take the initiative in practicing sustainable behaviors. In addition, CityNet SDGs Cluster seminars are held in the city of Yokohama to share the knowledge of CityNet members by introducing SDGs related initiatives and decarbonization efforts not only to CityNet members but also to international organizations, private companies, and academic institutions.



CYO visits CityNet Secretariat in Seoul



## CityNet Yokohama Project Office (CYO)

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

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[CityNet project website](https://citynetyokohama.com)



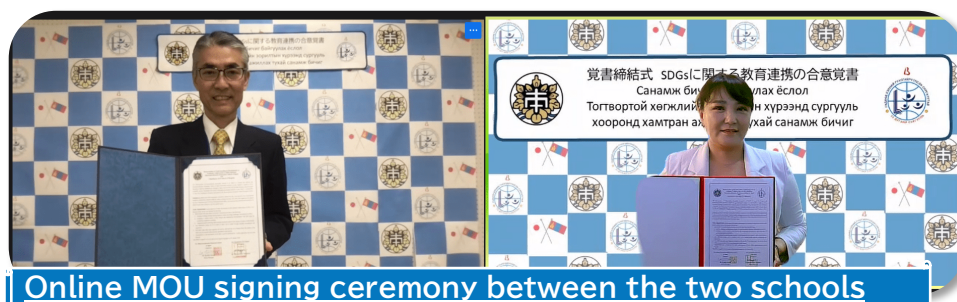
## 2 SDGS YOUTH ACTION PROJECT

### Project Objectives

The City of Yokohama, in collaboration with CYO, has been supporting exchange activities between elementary schools in the City of Yokohama and overseas schools on the SDGs since 2022. The purpose of this support activity is to encourage children to see the SDGs as part of their daily lives and to take the initiative in practicing sustainable behavior. By sharing the results of these activities at events for citizens, efforts are being made to enhance public awareness of actions that can be taken to realize a sustainable world by 2030. Additionally, by disseminating these efforts to CityNet member cities and expanding similar initiatives to overseas cities, further promotion of the SDGs is being pursued.

### Exchange with Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Minatomiraihoncho elementary school (Japan) and Ulaanbaatar 23<sup>rd</sup> school (Mongolia), which have been engaged in exchanges since 2022, concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for educational collaboration on the SDGs in March 2024, based on the results of past exchange programs. Under the MOU, the two schools have agreed to further develop cooperation in educational activities related to the SDGs by holding student exchange meetings to share knowledge, issues, and opinions on the SDGs over



Online MOU signing ceremony between the two schools

### Exchanges in FY2024

In FY2024, the third year of the program, exchange activities were held with the participation of 4th grade students from Minatomiraihoncho elementary school and 4th and 6th grade students from Ulaanbaatar 23<sup>rd</sup> school. Prior to the online exchange meeting, the children were interested in exchanging videos introducing each other's schools. Virtual Reality

the medium and long term, and to establish a liaison system to promote continuous cooperation.

### Exchange meeting



(VR) technology was newly utilized to enable children in remote locations to communicate with one another while feeling closer to each other. During the exchange meeting, the children actively engaged each other in a Q&A session about their efforts to solve the waste problem and other related activities. The exchange meeting provided an opportunity to deepen friendships by learning not only about issues and initiatives, but also about cultures each other.

### Exchange with Semarang City, Indonesia

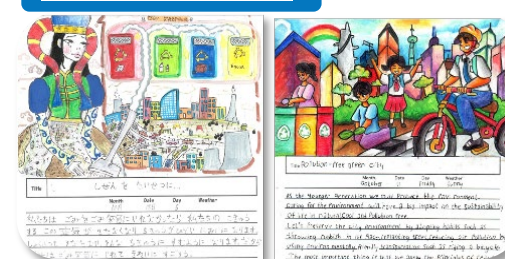
In FY2024, a new exchange activity was held with a school in Semarang City. 4th grades from both schools introduced their school activities on the themes of the environment and disaster prevention, and actively exchanged opinions on what kind of city they would like their community to be in the future. The children's opinions were displayed on the Metaverse world, and by confirming common and different values each other, the event provided an opportunity to think more deeply about issues close to daily life from the perspective of the SDGs.



Opinions from children about their ideal city

### Introduction of Initiatives at SDGs Awareness Event for Citizens

#### Children's works



Children in Ulaanbaatar and Semarang contributed more than 30 picture diary entries to the “SDGs Future City - Environmental Picture Diary Exhibition 2024” held in November 2024, expressing their thoughts on familiar environmental issues and their own culture. At the award ceremony held on the last day of the exhibition, video

messages from children in Ulaanbaatar were also projected. The works are also exhibited online. (<https://kankyo-enikki.jp/enikki>)  
At the Asia Smart City Conference held in November 2024, the school song “Colorful Future”, which was created by children from Minatomiraihoncho elementary school with their thoughts on achieving the SDGs, and the environmental picture diary, which were created by children of Ulaanbaatar 23<sup>rd</sup> school, were introduced through an exhibition room in the Metaverse world.



VR exhibition room





### 3 CITYNET SDGS CLUSTER SEMINAR

#### SDGs Cluster Seminar 2024

Following from 2023, the CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar was held at the Asia Smart City Conference in the City of Yokohama. The purpose of the event was to bring together not only CityNet SDGs Cluster members but also all members to share the initiatives and knowledge of each member city through seminars and networking.

At the SDGs Cluster Seminar held on October 24th, representatives of CityNet members, including the City of Yokohama, and related international organizations took to the stage to introduce their knowledge of initiatives related to SDGs and climate change measures through the CityNet network. At the panel discussion session, discussions on the localization\* in the city and synergistic effects of SDGs and climate change measures were held.

Additionally, a networking event for CityNet members was held on October 22. At the networking event, the results of a questionnaire survey on SDGs among CityNet members and progress reports on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) by CityNet member cities were presented (see page 8).

\*Localization of the SDGs refers to efforts to reflect the global goals of the SDGs in local conditions and to take targeted action.

#### Summary of SDGs Cluster Seminar in 2024

- Theme: Synergies of SDGs and Climate Action – Through the Network of CityNet –
- Number of Participants: Approximately 120 people (including 12 CityNet member cities and organizations)

#### Panel discussion



Group photo of CityNet members

#### Group photo of Networking participants

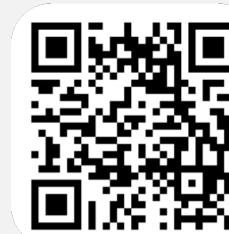


#### Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC)



The Asia Smart City Conference (hereinafter referred to as “ASCC”) is an international conference that brings together representatives from Asian cities, national governments, international organizations, academic institutions, and private companies, aiming to discuss on the realization of a sustainable city where economic growth and a favorable urban environment are compatible. The 13th ASCC was held by the City of Yokohama on October 23-24, 2024 at Pacifico Yokohama, with over 2,200 participants from 46 countries. Various stakeholders including Asian cities, international organizations, companies, and students, gathered under the theme of “Decarbonization” to share the challenges and visions for growth toward realizing a sustainable green society, as well as solutions using advanced technology through 18 sessions. In addition, the Yokohama Declaration was made with the support of international organizations such as the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (World Bank TDLC), Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), CITYNET, and 39 overseas cities that participated in the conference, toward the realization of a green society in Asia. In addition, approximately 50 companies and organizations set up exhibition booths, and over 1,100 business exchanges took place.

An overview and report of the event, as well as archived video, are available on the following website. Please take a look if you missed it!



You can access the website of 13<sup>th</sup> ASCC from here!





## 4 EFFORTS FOR OVERSEAS CITIES TO ACHIEVE SDGs

### Support for SDGs Promotion and VLR Implementation in Overseas Cities

Through the activities of CityNet, the City of Yokohama has provided support for SDGs and VLR promotion in various cities. In FY2024, much of online and face-to-face discussion has been done with City of Santa Rosa, Baguio, and San Fernando in the Philippines.

Specifically, collaboration was undertaken with the City of Santa Rosa in their VLR implementation process through participation in stakeholder meetings and peer reviewing of draft reports. Furthermore, at the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD12) held in Bangkok, Thailand, in February 2025, City of Yokohama co-hosted the launch event of the VLR for Santa Rosa with IGES and other organizations.

#### Introduction of initiatives on SDGs/ VLR



In addition, the City of San Fernando showed increasing interest in VLR, sparked by the side meeting at ASCC, and representatives from the City of Yokohama and the CYO participated in the VLR orientation for city officials in November, along with Baguio City officials.

### Other VLR-related Activities

The City of Yokohama and the CYO, in cooperation with international organizations, are actively utilizing various opportunities to share their experience and knowledge related to SDGs initiatives and VLR.

#### FY2024 Opportunities of disseminating VLR related initiatives at international conferences and seminars (in total 6 times)

- Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development (June)
- UCLG ASPAC-IGES Webinar on VLR and SDG Localization for Local Governments in Asia Pacific (November)
- IGES Webinar on Strengthening Follow-Up and Review of the SDGs at the Local Level (February) etc.

#### Discussions on the support for VLR implementation

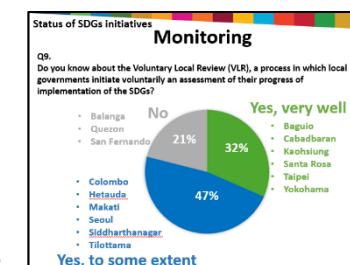


#### Initiatives of the City of Yokohama was introduced at 12th APFSD

## Conducting the SDGs Questionnaire

Since FY2023, City of Yokohama and CYO have been conducting a survey of CityNet member cities regarding the status of SDGs achievement as well as efforts and needs related to the SDGs Cluster. This survey has been conducted to gain insight of how CityNet members have been advancing their SDGs related initiatives and how to achieve the SDGs toward 2030.

In 2024, responses were received from 18 CityNet member cities and organizations, and the results of the analysis were shared with member cities at CityNet SDGs Cluster and in newsletters. Additionally, information on the current status and needs of urban issues in Philippine cities, collected through previous surveys, was provided at workshops for businesses and other organizations in the city.



## Future Developments

In FY2024, support has been provided for VLR implementation in some cities, primarily in Southeast Asia. Moving forward, further contributions to the achievement of the SDGs will be made by linking these efforts to the horizontal development of VLR in other overseas cities.

Furthermore, initiatives will be promoted to facilitate technical cooperation by utilizing the expertise and technologies of the City of Yokohama and companies in order to resolve issues identified in the VLR.

### What is Voluntary Local Review (VLR) ?

Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an initiative in which cities around the world voluntarily review their efforts toward achieving the SDGs set by the United Nations. Through this process, cities aim to promote the SDGs and improve their initiatives. The results of these reviews are compiled into reports and submitted to the United Nations.

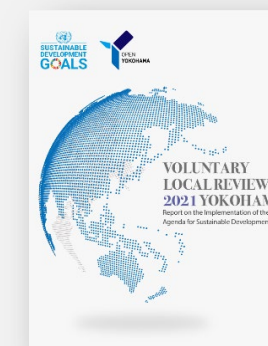
The City of Yokohama first announced its VLR at the 10th ASCC held in October 2021.



← For more information about VLR, please see [here](#) (UN website).



Learn more for [Yokohama VLR 2021](#) ⇒





## SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES WITH OVERSEAS CITIES

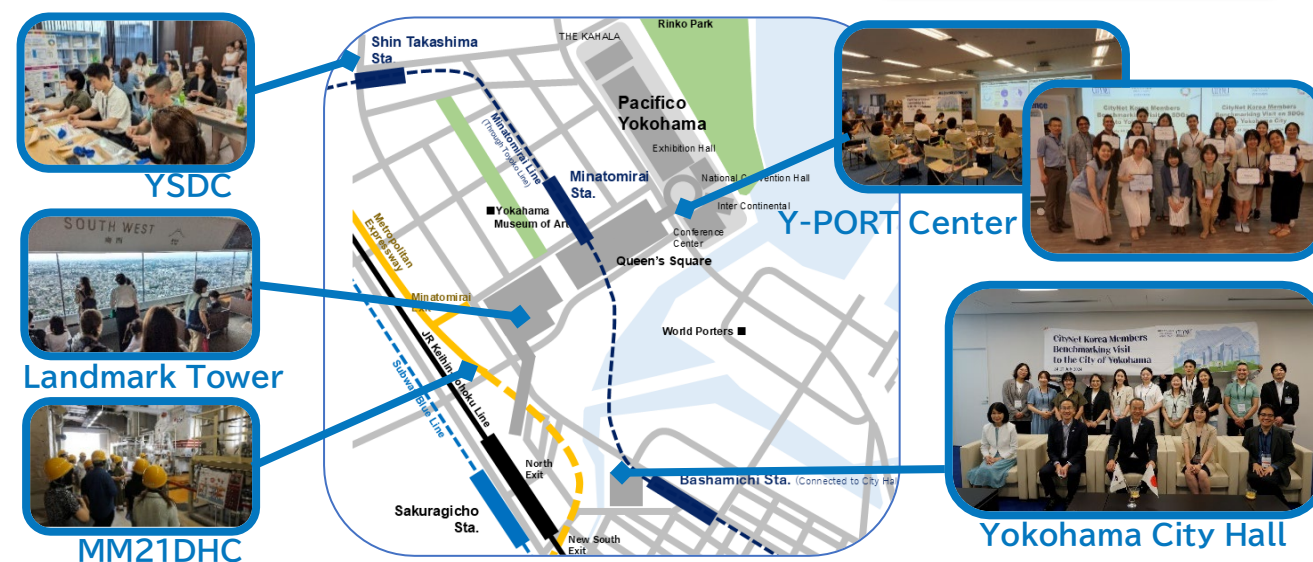
### Site Visit and Training Program

In response to requests from CityNet secretariat, related international organizations, member cities, the City of Yokohama welcomes and supports visitors and trainees in related fields in the City of Yokohama.

### CityNet Korea Members Benchmarking Visit on SDGs

- Date: July 24-27, 2024 (4 days)
- Visitors: 12 members from CityNet Secretariat, Seoul Metropolitan Government, Busan Metropolitan City, Suwon City, Jongno-gu, Dongdaemun-gu, Dobong-gu, Seoul Research Institute, Seoul Digital Foundation, and Seoul Tourism Organization
- Contents: In addition to sessions covering topics including decarbonization and elderly welfare, the participants also visited Minato Mirai 21 District Heating and Cooling Co., Ltd. (MM21 DHC), Yokohama SDGs Design Center (YSDC), and Landmark Tower Sky Garden. They shared information and experiences on SDGs Goals 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17, and created and announced action plans as the output of the training.

Participants of SDGs training



### Site Visit from the City of Taoyuan, Taiwan

- Date: July 16, 2024 (1 day)
- Visitors: 4 members of the Smart City and Community Development Committee Commission of Taoyuan City, Taiwan
- Contents: To strengthen international cooperation and public-private partnerships for building a sustainable society, the City of Yokohama introduced its activities related to the SDGs and its VLR initiatives with IGES.

Delegation of Taoyuan



Introduction of SDGs and VLR initiatives

### Site Visit from the City of Makati, Philippines

- Date: February 6-10, 2025 (3 days)
- Visitor: 5 members from the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Makati City, Philippines
- Contents: Along with delegation's visiting the 29th Earthquake Disaster Prevention Technology Exhibition (February 6-7), the City of Yokohama supported visiting Fire Department Headquarters Building, Fire Command Center, and Citizen Disaster Prevention Center. The delegation learned the earthquake resistance and disaster prevention measures at the Crisis Management Office and City Hall, as well as efforts being made for earthquakes and fires in densely populated urban areas and regional disaster prevention centers.

Delegation of Makati



Introduction of disaster prevention measures



### Crisis Management Human Resource Development Support Project

Through on-site surveys, site visit, and discussions, the City of Yokohama had cooperated city of Makati in the development of crisis management human resources, mainly for firefighters in the city of Makati.

\*City of Yokohama had served as the lead of CityNet Disaster Cluster until 2022.

Learn more







# 5 SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES WITH OVERSEAS CITIES

## Dissemination through International Conferences, etc.

The City of Yokohama participates in international conferences and workshops hosted by CityNet, international organizations, member cities, etc. to promote related knowledge and experience.


The CityNet Secretariat held the **City Benchmarking on Leaving No One Behind when Localizing SDGs** in Seoul from June 25 to 28, 2024, with the aim of developing capacity for LNOB (Leave No One Behind: the basic principle of the SDGs). The City of Yokohama introduced the SDGs Certification System “Y-SDGs”.

In addition, the City of Yokohama attended the **Seoul GTSN (Going Together with the Socially Neglected) Forum**, hosted by Seoul Metropolitan Government, with the theme of “The Path We All Share,” and introduced elderly welfare policy initiatives in the city.

The **16th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar** was held in Taipei from September 19 to 21, 2024, organized by Taipei City and the CityNet Disaster Cluster. The seminar was themed on “People-Centered Resilient Cities,” and sessions were held on topics such as data governance, mainstreaming GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) in disaster prevention, actions for climate change adaptation, disaster risk financing, and solutions to future challenges.

Representing the City of Yokohama, CYO took to the stage at the climate change session to introduce **efforts of climate change adaptation measures in the City of Yokohama**





On October 8, 2024, the **4th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities** was held in Kitakyushu City, organized by ESCAP, Kitakyushu City, and Incheon Metropolitan City. Approximately 100 people from 18 countries participated and shared information on challenges and solutions to realize sustainable, low-carbon cities. In the session of “**Innovation and Technology for green transformation for resilience in cities**”, the City of Yokohama disseminated the efforts of promoting decarbonization, represented as the leading decarbonization regions in Yokohama.

## Examples of SDGs Activities Promoted by the City of Yokohama

### SDGs Certification System “Y-SDGs”

In order to support the efforts of companies and organizations both in and outside the City of Yokohama to achieve the SDGs, the system evaluates the efforts of businesses in four fields: Environment, Social, Governance and Local, across 30 criteria. Certification is then made in 3 categories (Supreme, Superior, Standard) according to the status of efforts in each evaluation criterion. The aim of the system is to shift to sustainable management and operation, and to utilize the results in investment and loan decisions by investors and financial institutions.

Since the system was established in 2020, a total of 842 entities (86 Supreme, 186 Superior, and 587 Standard) have been certified through 14 rounds of certification by March 2025. In addition, certified companies and organizations are provided with benefits such as additional points when bidding with the City of Yokohama and subsidies for credit guarantee fees.



### Food Waste Reduction SDGs Locker

This is an initiative that allows customers to purchase food that is still within its consumption period but would otherwise be discarded through locker-typed vending machines.

In January 2024, sales of bread, which would otherwise be wasted food, started and sold out within a few hours each day. As of March 2025, lockers have been installed in 7 locations, and the types of food items handled are expanding. By the end of January 2025, it is estimated that approximately 4.6 tons of food waste have been prevented.

For further expansion of the program to all 18 wards of the City of Yokohama, public solicitation of locations for installing the lockers, and matching them with companies facing food waste problems are currently under consideration.





# Public Relations Activities

CYO posts and disseminates its latest activities on the City of Yokohama website and the CityNet secretariat website. Updates on our future activities will be shared regularly, so please check them out!

## CityNet Project Website in Yokohama City

The website introduces a detailed overview of CityNet and projects that Yokohama city and CYO have been working on to date (visit [QR code](#) in page 2).

### Newsletter Issued from CYO

Newsletter (in Japanese and English) is issued every two or three months to provide CityNet members with detailed information on the latest status of CityNet related projects.

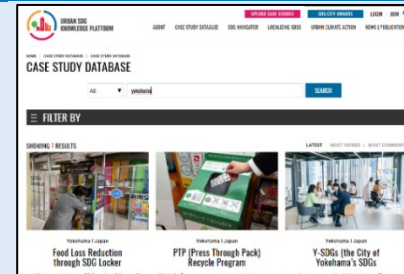


### Back Number in FY2024

- May: Presentation of the City of Yokohama's initiatives at a side event of the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD11)
- Aug.: SDGs training in Yokohama for CityNet Korean members and Site visit from the city of Taoyuan, Taiwan
- Nov.: 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Smart City Conference, CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar 2024, and SDGs Youth Action Project in the metaverse
- Jan.: Exchange activities among schools in Ulaanbaatar and Semarang, and Introduction of initiatives regarding SDGs and VLR in Yokohama
- Mar.: VLR implementation support for Santa Rosa city and APFSD12, and Site visit from city of Makati

## Yokohama's Case Study on SDGs

CYO has introduced SDGs-related case studies in Yokohama to CityNet members through the database of the "Urban SDG Knowledge Platform" operated by CityNet, ESCAP, and others. These case studies are also posted on the Y-PORT website. We plan to continue expanding the content of case studies in the future.



(Upper) [Urban SDG Knowledge Platform](#)  
(Lower) [Y-PORT website](#)

## Introduction of CityNet Initiatives for Youth

Initiatives of CYO has been introduced at the SDGs-related programs implemented by educational institutions (elementary school, high school and university), as well to internship students welcomed by international organizations at the Yokohama International Organizations Center. In FY2024, active discussions and exchange of opinions were conducted through 7 times of introduction to approximately 200 of youth.

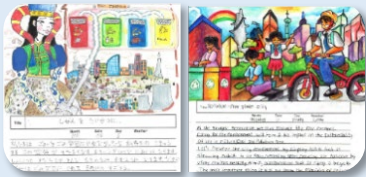


# Activity Schedule in 2025

The following events and initiatives are being planned and considered for FY2025. Details will be announced on our website soon.

## SDGs Youth Action Project (All year-round)

The City of Yokohama 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. (See page 3)



## 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 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 (see page 7).

## 45th CityNet Executive Committee Meeting (Oct.)

ExCom meeting in 2025 is scheduled to be held in Denpasar, Indonesia. The future direction of CityNet and the budget and financial results will be discussed in the ExCom meeting. The City of Yokohama will participate as an executive committee member, the President Emeritus of CityNet. In addition, as one of the leading cities of the SDGs Cluster, report on the achievement of the activities will be presented in collaboration with CYO.



## CityNet SDGs Cluster Seminar (Nov.)

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 leads and co-leads of the SDGs Cluster and the CityNet secretariat, and to publicize it around August. We look forward to seeing you in Yokohama! (See page 5)

## 13th Da Nang Urban Development Forum

Since signing a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation with Da Nang City in 2013, the City of Yokohama 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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