

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023!

**Citynet-Plus Arts Center for Creative Partnerships
wishes all Citynet members, partners and friends a
safe, healthy and a prosperous year!**



CN+a C.C.P.

**CITYNET +arts
Center for Creative
Partnerships**



Bridge connecting Kobe (right) and Awaji Island

UPDATES: CITYNET OFFICE IN KOBE

1. PLUS ARTS GETS ELECTED AS CITYNET EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER



The 9th General Council of CityNet held in Kuala Lumpur.

[Video Link](#)



The 9th General Council of CityNet was held in September 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, where new office bearers were elected for the 2023-2026 term. **Plus Arts was elected as one of the CityNet Executive Committee members** for the next 4 years, along with 12 others. Plus Arts is also a member of the CityNet Disaster Cluster and the SDGs Cluster.

2. CITYNET-PLUS ARTS CENTER FOR CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPERATE FROM KOBE

In 2020, the CityNet Executive Committee approved the establishment of the **CityNet-Plus Arts Center for Creative Partnerships Office (CityNet office in Kobe)**, in order to connect Japanese CityNet members and stakeholders to other CityNet members, strengthen partnerships, and address urban social issues. At the recent CityNet Congress, Plus Arts reiterated its commitment to enhance the operation of the CityNet office in Kobe and work closer with CityNet members. This year, in collaboration with the CityNet office in Kobe, Plus Arts hosted sessions for CityNet members on **Japanese case studies of creative approaches towards strengthening societal resilience** under the CityNet Cluster Grant Program. This project was completed in September.

The CityNet office in Kobe is also conducting a project called **Empowering Youth Leadership in Promoting Bosai Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region**. Bosai is a Japanese word for disaster prevention. The project trains youth to become bosai specialists. The objective is to use blended learning to spread knowledge gained in Japan to youth in Thailand and Nepal and their communities. This project is supported by Toshiba International Foundation and a collaboration with the CityNet Yokohama Project Office.



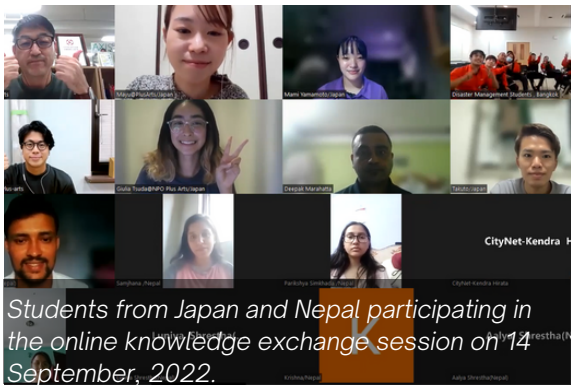
The KIITO Building houses the CityNet Kobe Office.



Students from Thailand demonstrating a water filter crafted from bamboo and charcoal during the session on 20 October 2022.

3. PRACTICAL DRR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AMONG YOUTHS FROM JAPAN, NEPAL AND THAILAND

Over 20 students from Japan, Nepal, and Thailand participated in three online knowledge exchange sessions between 14 September and 20 October, 2022. Students shared bosai tools and practices, starting conversations on the roles science, traditional knowledge, and everyday practices can play in bosai. Students also spoke to the challenges and opportunities of shaping bosai in their local areas. More sessions are being planned for this ongoing exchange, which will continue through 2023.



Students from Japan and Nepal participating in the online knowledge exchange session on 14 September, 2022.

[Read More](#) →

4. PLUS ARTS KOBE OFFICE WELCOMES TWO NEW INTERNS

In Fall 2022, two interns joined the Plus Arts Kobe office from the University of Victoria. Russell Chiong is studying law. He is passionate about the environment and urban issues, and looks forward to working for PlusArts over the coming months.



Russell Chiong (left) and Giulia Gagliano-Tsuda (right), the new interns who worked at the CityNet Kobe Office through December 2022.

Giulia Gagliano-Tsuda is completing an Honors degree in Political Science and Gender Studies. She is excited to pursue her interests of international sustainable development in Asia, particularly the application of the UN SDG framework.



5. BOSAI KURASHI NO GAKKO

On 29 & 30 October 2022, staff from both the Plus Arts Kobe and Tokyo offices supported the BO-SAI Kurashi no Gakko (BO-SAI Living School) event in Toyosu, Tokyo. The BO-SAI Living School event included booths where children could learn about the importance of oral hygiene in disaster preparedness, and how to craft disaster preparedness tools from newspaper. In addition, private partners showcased goods for preparing households in the event of disasters.

This event, which returned for the first time since 2019 and was organized by the Toyosu Disaster Prevention EXPO Executive Committee and co-sponsored by the “Daijobu” Campaign Executive Committee.

[Read More](#) →

The event was also supported by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Koto Ward, and the Koto Ward Board of Education, Mitsui Real Estate Co. Ltd and the IHI Corporation.

'Bosai' in Japanese means disaster prevention.



レッドベアサバイバルキャンプ

6. TOYOHASHI BOSAI CAMP

On 29 and 30 October 2022, staff from the Plus Arts Kobe office traveled to Toyohashi, Aichi, to support the Toyohashi Bosai Camp. At this camp, children learned fun ways of preparing for disasters, using everyday materials to keep warm and prepare food. This event was funded by the city of Toyohashi, Aichi and supported by Plus Arts and Toyohashi Bo-Sai Leader.

[Read More](#) →

7. DRR EDUCATION TRAININGS RESUME FOR NEPALESE TEACHERS

From 27 to 29 November, 2022, Plus Arts and the CityNet-Plus Arts Centre for Creative Partnerships (CityNet office in Kobe) travelled to Lalitpur to launch the first workshop of the third phase for the **School Club Based Resilient Community Model Project** in Nepal, in order to facilitate a three-day DRR Education Material Development Training. This training program began with education on earthquake risks from NSET. Over 30 teachers from 18 local schools devised educational materials for teaching children how to prepare for disasters. These materials were then tested with over 60 students from Lalitpur, who provided valuable feedback that will inform the selection and further development of educational materials with the help of a professional designer. **This program is part of a three-year project supported by JICA, in collaboration with Plus Arts, CityNet, and INSEC, and will be completed in August 2025.**



Joining in this project were three university students from Japan, a staff from CityNet Yokohama Project Office, and an intern from CityNet office in Kobe. This group participated in knowledge exchanges with university students from Trinity International Secondary School/College in Kathmandu, continuing from the online sessions held earlier this year. They then collaborated to develop programs that they shared with the students at the session on November 29.

BOSAI TIP OF THE MONTH

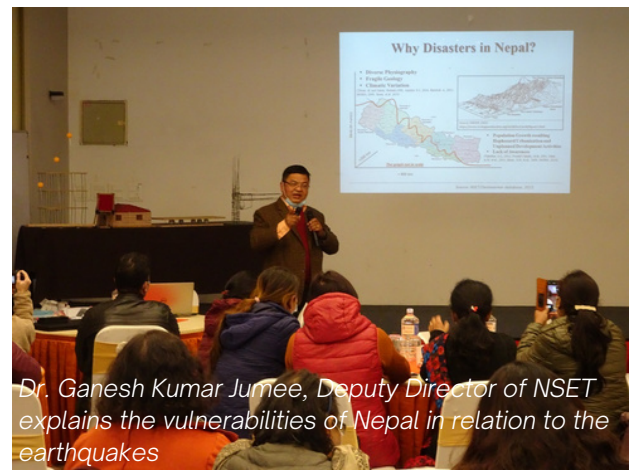
Newspapers, when wrapped around the body can keep you warm. It can also be folded to make containers, sandals and other goods to be used during disasters or even while camping.

8. SAFE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES TRANSFERRED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL TOOL DEVELOPMENT

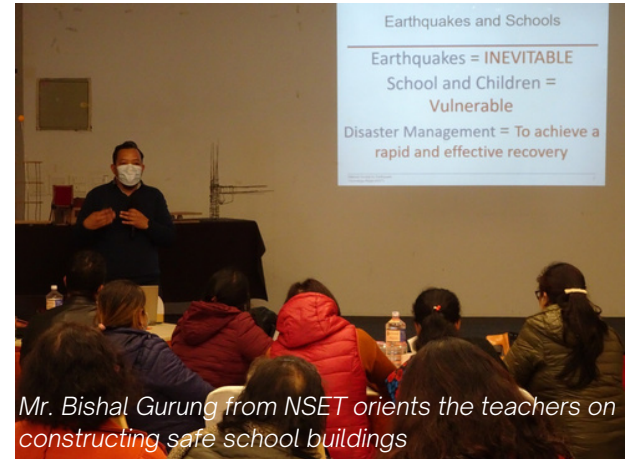
The workshop held as a part of **School Club Based Resilient Community Model Project** kicked off with a technical content on safe construction practices provided by the experts from **National Society for Earthquake Technologies (NSET)** in Lalitpur where the teachers were oriented on the basics of safe construction.

The contents included talks on earthquake mechanism, how its impact affects buildings in Nepal and what the possible solutions can be to protect and strengthen the buildings.

This particular session was developed in response to the requests from the teachers during phase II (2019) as they saw the need to teach children more effectively on the relation between the earthquakes and structures. While technical, the topic's importance and its relevance to both the teachers and the students is very high as house owners and even construction companies sometimes tend to ignore proper building codes in order to save costs.



Dr. Ganesh Kumar Jumee, Deputy Director of NSET explains the vulnerabilities of Nepal in relation to the earthquakes



Mr. Bishal Gurung from NSET orients the teachers on constructing safe school buildings



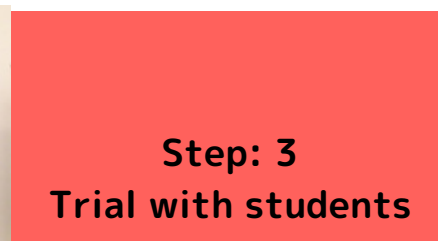
Ms. Kirty Tiwari, Sr. Structural Engineer from NSET demonstrates how structures can be vulnerable depending on their shapes and sizes.



Step: 1-Training by NSET



Step: 2 Developing tools by teachers



Step: 3 Trial with students



9. JAPANESE AND NEPALI YOUTHS ENGAGE IN JOINT ACTIVITY ON DRR

Supported by
Toshiba International Foundation



Students from Trinity International College, Kathmandu welcome Japanese students at the college for a cultural exchange.

In order to enhance the cross-cultural learning on disaster education and its practices, CityNet Yokohama Project office through Plus Arts organized several online exchanges and one on site exchange for the youths from Japan, Nepal and Thailand to share their experiences.

The project ‘**Empowering Youth Leadership in Promoting Bosai Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region**’ embarked on the second stage where the youths from Japan traveled to Nepal to have a direct exchange on the DRR culture. University students from **Okayama University, Ehime University and University of Victoria (Canada)** joined the mission to Nepal where they visited the local college to first have the cultural exchange.

The DRR exchange session was a joint task by the youths from the two countries where they came up with activities to share knowledge about disasters to the local school children. In particular, the youths were in charge of activities where they showcased how **emergency bags** can be prepared as well as creating **containers from tree leaves** which is a typical practice in Nepal. As the containers are made from leaves, these are biodegradable unlike paper plates and does not require water to clean after use therefore very handy during disasters.



The first stage included online exchanges on the disaster preparedness and response programs where the youths from the three countries shared their common activities.

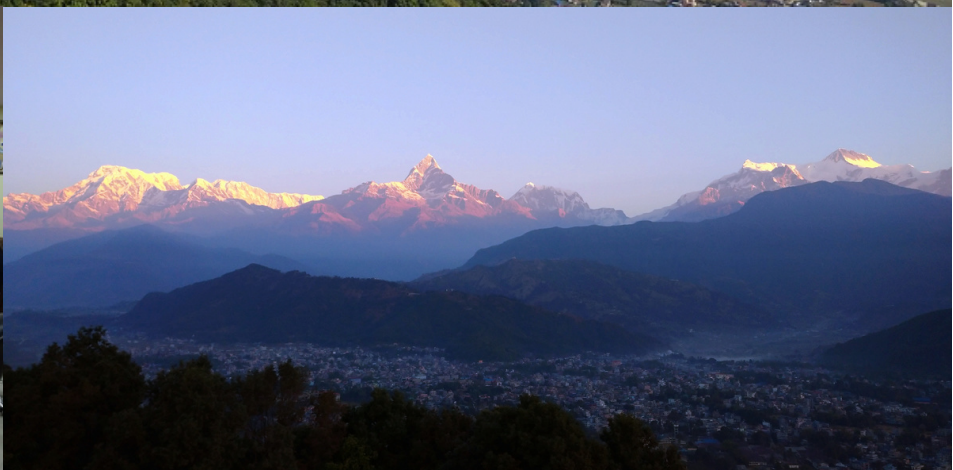
The third stage is expected to include another mission from Japan to Thailand where the Japanese youths are expected to have a similar exchange with Thai university students in Bangkok.

10. POKHARA PRESENTS ITSELF AS THE POTENTIAL CITYNET CONGRESS HOST CITY

CityNet office in Kobe accompanied CityNet Secretariat to Pokhara Metropolitan City to conduct a rapid assessment of the potential host city for the next CityNet Congress scheduled for 2026. The assessment mainly included checking of conference venues, accommodations, airport management, transportation arrangements, and the study visit sites. The final decision is expected to be made at a later stage. Pokhara had expressed its interest to host the Congress 2026 during the 9th CityNet Congress in Kuala Lumpur held in September 2022.

Mayor Dhanaraj Acharya introduced his city and the locations to the visiting CityNet staff starting with a meeting of all key departments and council members of the city to explain about CityNet and how Pokhara can prepare itself to be the next host city of the Congress.

The visit was also joined by representatives of CityNet National Chapter office NSET in Nepal.



Top: View of the Fishtail Mountain and the Annapurna range from Sarangkot, Pokhara.

Middle: Mayor Acharya presides over the meeting with city hall representatives. Annapurna range at dawn.

Bottom: Garden of one of the potential venues. New international airport inspection. A typical village in Pokhara.

28 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 17, 1995
5:46AM

M6.9 earthquake devastated Kobe and its surrounding areas. More than 6,400 people lost their lives.

We offer prayers and thoughts to all the victims and strive to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction through education and social programs.

We also advocate "Build Back Better" through partnerships and creativity for making resilient societies.



Nankinmachi, Kobe Chinatown.



Sannomiya, Kobe.



Kobe Children's Book Forest.



Flower Road.



Ikuta Shrine.



KII TO Building (CityNet office in Kobe, 3F).



East Kobe city area.



View from Kikusuiyama, Kobe.

PHOTOS OF KOBE FROM THE FALL