



*Miniature skyline of Kobe created from general household items, toys and boxes inspires creativity and planning.*

## Announcement

### Invitation to the 15th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar

The 15th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar 2023 will mark the beginning of the leadership of the City of Makati and co-leadership of Colombo Municipal Council, Matsuyama City, Taoyuan City, Quezon City, Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG), National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), and Plus Arts.

The seminar will be the first step towards strengthening the engagement of Cluster members, so that they become resilience leaders in their own ways with a higher purpose of influencing other cities and organizations, whether members of CityNet or not, toward the climate and disaster resilience goals of SDG, SFDRR, and COP21/COP25. As the first major Cluster activity under new leadership, the seminar will launch and gather inputs on the Disaster Cluster Plan for 2023 - 2026.

All CityNet members are invited.

June 7 - 8, 2023  
Makati

Registration deadline: April 7, 2023

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# 1. ROBOTICS PROGRAM SEES HIGH POTENTIAL IN NEPALESE STUDENTS

Supported by KDDI Foundation

KDDI Foundation first introduced a project to support e-learning and then **to enhance logical and creative thinking** among Nepalese children in Nepal in 2018 by providing computers and necessary software. With the continued support of the public schools in Lalitpur, the students have enabled themselves to use robotic sets to create various movable objects with a specific purpose.

The commands for the robots are designed through the computer and the robots are assembled using blocks that allow various creations depending on the purpose. The robots are equipped with motors, sensors, and LED lights which activate themselves depending on the command input through the computers. While basic, the concepts directly relate to the auto-driven cars or automated machines which conduct tasks on behalf of the operators making it a potential for practical application.



Elementary students learn using tablets provided by KDDI Foundation.



Secondary students work on programming to make robots mobile.



Students assemble the robot and transfer the codes to make it operational.

The initial project in 2018 covered 7 schools; subsequently, schools were added in 2020 and 2021. Currently, a total of 11 public schools in Lalitpur are receiving support. Training for the teachers and maintenance of the computers as well as robot kits are being provided by OLE Nepal (Open Learning Exchange).

This year, KDDI Foundation expects to conduct a robotics competition among participating schools. The competition will require the students to design and create a complete movable robot. The teams will be assessed on the design of the robots, speed and the function according to the program created on computers.



## 2. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM JAPAN TO CITIES IN ASIA ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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**MIRAI BOSAI 2023**, an international series of workshops, was held under the theme of disaster prevention in the future, sponsored by the Kobe University Future Century Urban Studies Research Alliance (hereafter referred to as the MIRAI Alliance).

This event aims **to accelerate the social implementation of technology and knowledge in the field of disaster prevention and mitigation** in Japan by creating a forum for free and direct mutual communication between universities, research institutes, local governments, and private sector sectors.

During the session organized on March 20, Executive Director of **CityNet office in Kobe** (CityNet-Plus Arts Center for Creative Partnerships), Mr. Kendra Hirata shared insights on how technology transfer from Japan is possible through multi-sector collaboration with the cities outside of Japan, particularly through the network of CityNet. In the past projects on disaster risk reduction of CityNet, technology for early warning system, risk communications and construction technologies have been implemented in the member cities of CityNet. Currently CityNet office in Kobe in partnership with cities, academic sector and the private sector is extending its outreach to CityNet members to better avail of the opportunities that exists in Japan.

The session also highlighted challenges that are normally faced by the Japanese Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) which could be overcome through engagements with CityNet office in Kobe. CityNet office in Kobe works closely with the local governments in Japan as well as the private sector who have applicable technology as well as knowledge to support disaster risk reduction work.

Other session speakers included representatives from Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), Crisis Management Office of Kobe city, Kozo Keikaku Engineering Co., and Ltd., and Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting LLC Public Sector.

Further details can be viewed in the site below:  
<https://www.mirai-bosai.jp/>

## BOSAI TIP OF THE MONTH

Changing season brings strong winds and sudden changes in weather. It is best to secure things that can be easily blown away outside the house and check supply of food and water stock. Prepare appropriate clothing as contingencies.