



Azaleas bloom in at a city park in Kobe signifying the start of a rainy season.

1. CITY OF MAKATI COMMENCE THEIR LEADERSHIP OF THE DISASTER CLUSTER

- Co-Lead **Strategic Planning Meeting** to gather inputs on the Disaster Cluster Plan for 2023-2026.
- **Seminar Day 1:** Opening session and thematic session on Understanding Risks in the Era of Systemic Risk, and Risk Communication.
- **Seminar Day 2:** Thematic session on Governance and Financial Systems to Work Across Silos and Design In Consultation with Affected People, Site Visit to Barangay San Isidro's Community-based Waterways Management, and Barangay Poblacion Earthquake Drill.



DRRMO presents action plans and protocols at the Disaster Cluster Committee meeting.

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Co-leads share their commitment and contributions methods for the future term.

2. DISASTER CLUSTER COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS THE START OF A FOUR-YEAR TERM

The start of the disaster cluster 4-year term begins with a strategic planning meeting hosted by the cluster lead, City Government of Makati. During this session, the city shared their protocols, and procedures on how they deal with disaster prevention. This group meets every year.

The session was attended by the 7 disaster cluster co-leads who are stakeholders coming from different regions and countries from across the Asia-Pacific Region. The new co-leads for 2023-2026 are Colombo Municipal Council, Matsuyama City, Quezon City Government, Taoyuan City Government, Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG), National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), and Plus Arts. Additionally, two more participants were granted an invitation to join from Lalitpur, and Pokhara in Nepal.

The content that was discussed during the session included a review of CityNet member status on DRR, identifying the challenges and strengths, collaborative commitments, the timeline of programs and activities (2023-2026), and the summary of concrete programs from each co-lead. Additionally, the results from the CITYNET Disaster Cluster Annual survey were revealed. Lastly, each co-lead gave an introduction of themselves, and 3 ways their city or organization can contribute to the disaster cluster committee.

3. UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING, AND COMMUNICATING RISKS

The first day of the 15th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar was held on June 7th 2023 in Makati, Philippines. The session was attended by a diverse range of international stakeholders representing different organizations including local governments, civil society organizations, academe, private, and various sectors involved in disaster risk reduction (DRR).



Hon. Mayor Mar-len Abigail S. Binay of Makati welcomes the delegates to mark the opening of the seminar.

Spearheading the seminar was the Mayor of Makati who spoke encouraging words expressing her commitment for the next four years as the role of cluster lead. She explained that "through sharing knowledge and experiences, we can develop city-to-city cooperation to support capacity development" as the many various CityNet members gather for the seminar.

Following her words was a keynote speech from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) who shared how the organization navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and why preparing for risk in a systemic way is important. The next speaker was from the World Council on City Data which included a presentation on how to provide accurate data for cities to improve quality of life. Her main recommendation was for cities to use the ISO 37120 standardized reporting method for the highest quality usable data.



GeoRisk PH explaining the importance of gathering reputable data to keep cities safe.

4. WEB APPS, DATA GATHERING, AND ANALYSIS FOR RESILIENCE

A speech was delivered by GeoRisk PH that included themes of technology integration for DRR. She introduced the organization's newly developed web system and app that can assess hazard services based on location.

Following this was a presentation by the Taipei City Fire Department which showed their All-Hazard Risk Analysis tools to track temperature increases and heavy rains. This session taught listeners to use a risk analysis framework to assess the level of danger cities face. The presenters also shared their use of a radar chart which can help predict future risks and can gather data on how to protect them.

5. EIGHT CITIES SIGN UP TO MCR2030

On June 7th 2023, eight members signed up to Making Cities Resilient (MCR2030). This is a stakeholder initiative for improving local resilience through knowledge sharing, logistical expertise, and partnership building. These cities included Bangkok, Lalitpur, Dhangadhi, Pokhara, Taipei, Taoyuan, Colombo, and Tansen. This photo was taken as a sign of documented collaboration within the members.



8 cities pose for ceremonial sign-up for MCR2030.

6. COMMUNITY BUILDING, EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS STRATEGIES FOR RISK COMMUNICATION



Makati DRRMO providing evidence of strategic and logistic techniques for a resilient city.

The first speaker of the afternoon was from Matsuyama City who discussed topics such as past earthquake experiences from the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji, and 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. These experiences proved the need to practice disaster prevention in classrooms and workshops across the city.

Following this presentation was PlusArts who shared their internationally recognized IZA! KAERU CARAVAN! program and how they localized to new countries. Beyond this, PlusArts also shared their recent visit to Iloilo in the Philippines, and the importance of re-visiting communities after collaborations. This session sparked international interest for collaboration of future PlusArts programs.

Afterward, the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) presented their efforts to raise awareness for communicating risks. For example, through its Gorkha Earthquake Technical Support Program which trains engineers and community members on construction and reconstruction safety.

Ms. Liza Velle B. Ramos from the Research and Planning Division of the DRRMO concluded the first day of the seminar with her team's policy, plans, and protocols for disaster prevention. The outcomes from this session include an invitation for strategic partnership opportunities and experiences of local government risk resilience.

7. SEMINAR DAY TWO INTRODUCES SECTOR DIVERSITY WITH ACADEME, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

The first session of the second day introduced the topic of governance and financial systems, and how to design systems to benefit vulnerable communities. The presentations were representatives from academic institutions such as the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and Earthquake and Megacities Initiative (EMI). The outcome of these sessions was the lessons about creating, designing, and implementing resilience plans for vulnerable communities.



Diversity of sectors including academe help balance the disaster cluster knowledge for resilience.

Following this were two representatives from Ehime University, Japan. This discussion focused on how to collaborate DRR initiatives in school systems through youth exchange programs and research proposals. This discussion was further elaborated by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) where a personal experience of natural disaster trauma was shared. The speaker continued with many practical realities such as how communities deal with vulnerable infrastructure and the role governments can play in supporting vulnerable people.

8. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND DISASTER RELIEF PRODUCTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR



Partnerships with private sectors allow for governments and businesses to coincide harmoniously.

One of the priorities from this Disaster Cluster Seminar was to highlight industry diversity. It combined organizations from academe, government, civil society, and private sectors to share their perspectives.

Innovations from two private companies showcased their waterless oral care and disaster infrastructure products. Included in the presentation was a live, sixty-second demonstration of how to construct a PLA bed made from 70% recycled materials. This was done to show the practicality of their product in the case of a disaster. Next was a civil society representative from Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG). He shared his experiences designing architecture to keep communities safe from natural disasters.

9. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

During this session, a representative from Quezon City Government shared community needs of local people, and how the government attempts to match their needs. Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) shared how funding bankable community-led projects will fuel innovation for the future.

Community representatives from the cluster co-lead

members spoke on the real issues faced on the ground. Speakers from Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and the Philippines shared the background of their organizations, and what efforts they are putting forward for disaster risk reduction. The organizations included the Colombo Municipal Council, Feng Chia University, and DRR office of Quezon City.



Learning from neighboring cities within the same country can help collaboration efforts for DRR.

10. BARANGAY WATERWAY REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY DRR DRILL



Building and maintaining community projects like the waterway rehabilitation allows for a sustainable and prospering future.

To truly visualize the impacts and efforts of the City Government of Makati's work, a site visit was conducted to a previously vulnerable local community which has been rehabilitated. Barangay San Isidro is a community challenged with improper waste disposal from informal settlers which has been cleaned, rebuilt, and maintained by the government.

As for Barangay Poblacion, a community-wide involvement was needed to conduct a disaster drill of this size. It focused on community protocols, response, and emergency adaptations needed in case of a disaster. This demonstration was plentiful with fire, evacuation, earthquake, and injury drills aimed at protecting the public.



A community drill in Poblacion showed that cities that practice DRR together built trust and resilience.

11. EXEMPLARY WAYS OF PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY OBSERVED IN ILOILO

The Community-Based Adaptation and Resilience Against Disasters (CBARAD) project was first initiated in Iloilo in 2010 with the support of JICA grassroots technical cooperation program and in collaboration with the City of Yokohama and various stakeholders. The key part of the project was to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacity of Iloilo city and its barangays against floods and other hazards. The project was implemented in two phases from 2010-2012 and from 2013-2015.

It has been 8 years since the completion of the project and this month representatives from CityNet Kobe office visited the city to monitor the continuity of the programs. The inspection team was very pleasantly surprised to see the progress the city has made in terms of not only sustaining the programs introduced during the project years but also new partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders had taken a leap to magnify the activities for a wider outreach in the barangays.

During the project years, eight ordinances were passed to continue disaster education and awareness activities in various forms mainly focusing on the community-based and school-based programs. This paved the way to access necessary budget by the stakeholders allowing the continuity to train new facilitators as well. The program incorporates various games and activities through which children can learn about disasters and be able to take practical actions. Examples include making stretchers from blankets or rugs, learning to use fire extinguishers, understanding the contents for the emergency bags and its usage, conducting basic first aid, and assisting people with disabilities.

The city has also recently developed several ICARE (Iloilo City Action and Response) centers where first responders including personnel from Iloilo City Disaster Risk Management Office, Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection share the facility in three shifts. One such ICARE centers also houses the command center. Further developments are also underway to enhance the response capacity of the city and to strengthen the crisis management strategies. Similar progress was also seen in the risk communication strategies as well as research.

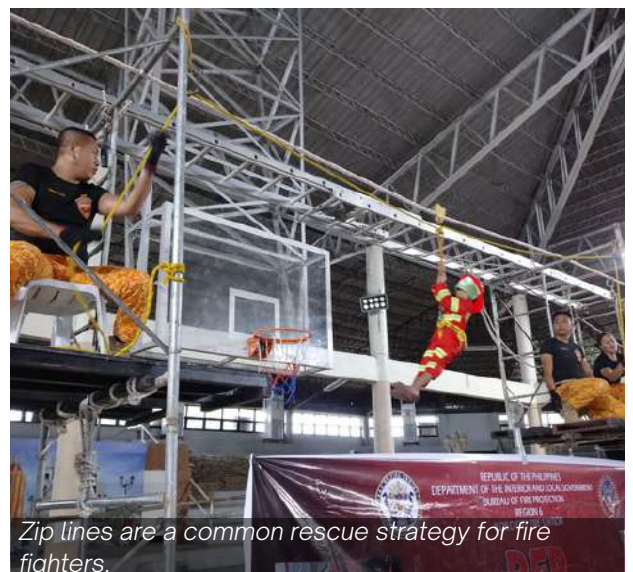




Newly constructed ICARE Command Center in Iloilo.



Improved caterpillar game to mimic crawling out of a smoke filled room.



Zip lines are a common rescue strategy for fire fighters.



Personnel from Bureau of Fire Protection-BFP (national agency) support educational programs in Iloilo.



Children learn how to make a stretcher from a woven rug.



Facilitators quiz the children on items for emergency bags.



Department head Ms. Donna Magno (center) introduces the ICARE Command center along with PNP and BFP personnel.



Physical games set up by BFP is a popular attraction for children.



Veteran facilitators trained during the CBARAD project continues to support the programs.



Games specifically to understand challenges of People With Disabilities (PWDs) have been developed in Iloilo.



Iloilo city continues to develop and attract investors from both within the Philippines and overseas.

PHOTOS OF ILOILO



Taipei City to host 16th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar in 2024.



Mayor of Makati welcoming the delegates during the opening.



Disaster Cluster co-Leads and mayors of member cities pay a courtesy call on the Mayor of Makati.



Community members of Poblacion practiced an earthquake drill to strengthen their community and building resilience.



Actors were propped up as injured persons to simulate real life nature disaster events.

PHOTOS OF DISASTER CLUSTER SEMINAR