



Small houses nested within the rolling green hills of Awaji Island.

# 1. MAKATI DRRMO VISITS KOBE FOR BENCHMARKING TOUR

CityNet-Plus Arts welcomed members of the **Makati Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO)** leadership team for a benchmarking tour from September 19 to 22. This week-long visit followed an expanded itinerary of the program that CityNet-Plus Arts debuted earlier in the month alongside the CityNet Secretariat (please see [September newsletter](#)). This time, the group surveyed two more learning centers, **Abeno Tasukaru** (Osaka) and **Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park** (Awaji), in addition to the **DRI Center** and **Sakai City General Disaster Prevention Center**. This allowed the delegates to obtain a more comprehensive overview of different learning center setups varying in scale, scope, layout design, and operation models. Moreover, apart from information sessions with **Plus Arts** and the **Kobe Crisis Management Office**, the DRRMO also met with the **UNDRR Kobe Office** to discuss ongoing and upcoming initiatives for the *Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments*.

One key objective of benchmarking the variety of educational facilities, including liaising with management staff, is for the DRRMO to gather inspiration or best practices and foster connections with counterparts for building Makati City's first dedicated DRR learning center- the DRR Academy.

The DRR Academy is part of Makati City's targeted, creative approach to disseminating disaster preparedness knowledge and reducing awareness gaps among citizens. CityNet-Plus Arts has been supporting this ambitious project since its initiation in 2017 and looks forward to its continued involvement as well as helping to promote and facilitate engagement from more Japanese institutions and local governments.

With factors such as urbanization and climate change exacerbating disaster vulnerability, public awareness and engagement are common priorities for many developed and developing cities. As an established leader in DRR and resilience-building in Southeast Asia, Makati City plays an important role in localizing and further disseminating Japanese Bosai expertise in the Philippines and beyond.



Continue reading:  
**DRI Center, Abeno Tasukaru**- Page 4;  
**Sakai City General Disaster Prevention Center**- Page 5



## 2. CHALLENGE EVENT MAKES BOSAI FUN

NPO Plus Arts organized three fun activities for the children's Bosai Challenge event held at Kobe Kids' Land on October 8. Sponsored by Sompo Japan and NHK, the event aimed to introduce Bosai culture and disseminate disaster preparedness concepts to young children through various information and game stations. Children could redeem a prize after visiting every station and completing the designated activity, ranging from crafts to dancing exercises, which taught participants practical disaster or survival knowledge. The Stations were hosted by a variety of organizations including the Kobe police and fire departments, high school volunteers, the DRR club of a college, and a grocery retailer.



(1) Cartoon dress-up game teaching the proper attire for a flood disaster

### PLUS ARTS GAMES SHOWCASE



(3) Blanket stretcher challenge with weighted doll to teach techniques for transporting an injured person



(2) Target-shooting game with real fire extinguisher





### 3. TAIPEI CITY SIGNS MOA TO HOST 16TH DISASTER CLUSTER SEMINAR

Taipei City Fire Department visited the CityNet-Plus Arts office on behalf of the Taipei City Government to sign the Memorandum of Agreement designating Taipei City as the host of the 16th Disaster Cluster Seminar in 2024. Both parties expressed their anticipation for the upcoming event and reiterated their commitment to foster inclusive and collaborative DRR capacity-building through inter-city partnerships and open knowledge exchange.

After the signing ceremony, Plus Arts Chairperson, Mr. Nagata, presented Plus Art's mission and past projects, including those with the Taiwan Design Center, and discussed future collaboration opportunities with Taipei City. The group then visited the DRI Center for a facility tour.



## BOSAI TIP OF THE MONTH

When abandoning your vehicle during an emergency evacuation, please leave your car keys behind and keep the car unlocked so that it may be moved later to unblock the roadway.

### 4. CITYNET-PLUS ARTS ATTENDS 43RD CITYNET EXCOM MEETING IN SUWON

The 43rd CityNet Executive Committee Meeting was held on October 23 in Suwon City, South Korea, in conjunction with the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum. More details and highlights from the session will be published through the [CityNet Secretariat](#).





# 5. TECHNOLOGY AND INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS IN LEARNING CENTERS

A commonality among all of the learning centers surveyed during the study visit is the use of technology to incorporate interactive elements into exhibits. Active learning makes educational content more engaging and memorable, especially for complicated scientific concepts. The technology in used the centers ranged from simple projections or mechanical contraptions to VR sets or responsive digital screens.

The BOSAI Science Field exhibitions at the [DRI Center](#) offer a variety of games that showcase how different disasters work. There is a balance of informational posters, models, and games.



Players must redirect the typhoon by manipulating the pressure system. The game works using an overhead projector and light sensors



Players push the tectonic plates and observe the resulting megathrust earthquake



Game showing how magnitude and epicentral distance affect seismic waves



Visitors practice using the fire extinguisher on a screen using remote pointing technology. Users must aim at the fire and extinguish it before time runs out. If the aim is off, the fire may grow

The [Abeno Tasukaru](#) learning center is focused on teaching practical disaster survival and self-rescue knowledge. Technologies and props are used to make the training more realistic and hands-on. The facility offers a wide selection of free training courses for different audiences, with an instructor guiding participants through each activity room in a logical sequence.



Realistic post-earthquake street diorama showing potential hazards

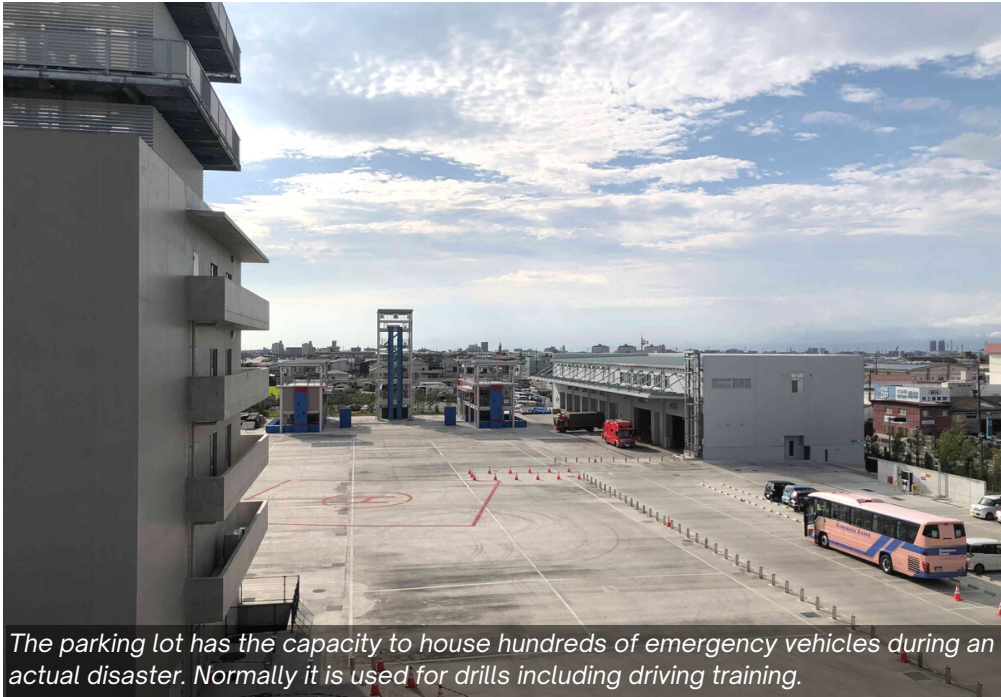


The collapse of a building is shown using a projected animation



# 6. BEHIND THE SCENES: RESCUE TRAINING

The Sakai Fire Department training facility was designed to integrate the disaster learning center and civilian training spaces with real fire and rescue training grounds.



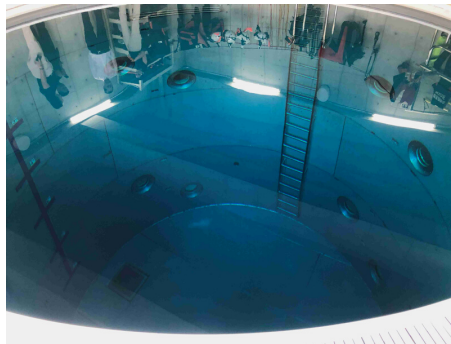
The parking lot has the capacity to house hundreds of emergency vehicles during an actual disaster. Normally it is used for drills including driving training.



Drill tower complex for height training including ropework and rappelling.



Concrete maze made in-house to train for collapsed-structure rescue.



## WATER TRAINING POOLS

Water training facilities include an eight-meter deep pool to practice rescue missions under realistic conditions such as low visibility during a flood disaster.



The stockpile warehouse is usually fully stacked with supplies.



Instant rice that does not require any cooking.



The second-floor area is also used for suspension training for river rescue.



Administrative office with a command monitor, staff are on stand-by 24/7.



Strap-on icepacks for firefighters are stored in the dressing room.



Specialized emergency truck for responding to NBC incidents.

STOCKPILE WAREHOUSE

OFFICE AND LIVING QUARTERS





## TRAINING TOWER

The bottom floor of the training tower is used for civilian courses. The rest of the tower contains many different types of training apparatus and is designed to maximize utility and space efficiency. Rooms or facilities often have more than one functional use or provide multiple training types. For example, the building's elevator can also be used for training.

1) Central control desk with monitoring and safety controls.

2) Multi-story housing units for fire rescue training with adjustable divisors.

3) Storage for materials that are burned during training.

4) Investigation laboratory with specialized equipment to analyze fire cause and origin.

5) Steep rocky incline for climbing training.

6) Dark maze chamber that simulates fire conditions without combustion

7) Wall rungs in a training room that can be used for sewer rescue training.