

38th CityNet Executive Committee Meeting

and International Seminar on

Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

6 - 8 November 2019 | Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, Nepal

CITYNET
THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Inauguration Ceremony

Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Federal Democratic Republic Nepal formally inaugurated the CityNet conference by lighting a traditional lamp at the Bhandarkhal Garden, Patan Durbar Square on November 6, 2019.

He expressed immense pleasure about Lalitpur Metropolitan City hosting the 38th CityNet Executive Committee meeting in the "City of Fine Arts": Lalitpur, Nepal. He believed CityNet could play a pivotal role in developing professional human resources, governance and technology integration which is essential for us to reach global targets.

He congratulated Lalitpur Metropolitan City for being elected to the executive committee of CityNet, which is a common platform to effectively solve common problems of local government. He wished more municipalities of Nepal could benefit from CityNet membership. Vice President Pun said the country was witnessing a stable political environment and is heading towards economic prosperity.

The gathering of more than 150 delegates from more than 10 countries of Asia Pacific region including mayors, administrators, civil leaders and international experts in this event in Lalitpur overwhelmed the Vice President. He hope that this event will be instrumental to identify problems in urban areas and explore ways to solve them.



The message of Park Won-soon, president of CityNet and Mayor of Seoul was presented as he could not attend the event. He hoped that this year's Executive Committee Meeting will build meaningful momentum for the mutual development of CityNet members.

CityNet is striving to bolster the capacities of its members and create more opportunities



for cooperation in various areas, such as technological development, training, education and CityNet services, he said. "Nepal is a symbol of the strength of humanity. I would like to express my sincere respect for the citizens of Nepal and Lalitpur who overcome that hardship (of the 2015 devastating earthquake) and are now planting the seeds of hope in the ruins", he opined.



Mr. Vijaya Jagannathan, General Secretary of CityNet congratulated Lalitpur Metropolitan City for hosting the event and hoped that all CityNet members will benefit from the deliberations and experience sharing during the meeting. After the heritage walk of Patan city, he saw the infrastructure being developed keeping in mind the income generation for the local people. He feels Lalitpur can become a truly global destination for tourism and world heritage site. It is a matter of pride for the people that Nepal was never under foreign colonial rule.



Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of LMC welcomed the Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal, Vijaya Jagannathan, Secretary General of CityNet, distinguished guests, delegates and others present in the inaugural ceremony. He said Lalitpur Metropolitan City, being the newest Executive Member, is delighted to host the 38th Executive Committee Meeting and International Seminar of CityNet in Lalitpur, in coordination with CityNet secretariat based in Seoul, Korea. He urged the Nepali members of CityNet (14 municipalities plus 4 others) for developing a common understanding to make best use of CityNet services.

CityNet Nepal Chapter Meet

CityNet Nepal Chapter meeting was organized on November 5, 2019 in hotel Himalaya. The meeting was conducted by National Society for Earthquake Technology- Nepal (NSET).

CityNet Nepal Chapter tried to accommodate other cities which could qualify to be the CityNet member. From Nepal there are 18 CityNet members, whereas Nepal Chapter has 34 members.

The objective of Nepal Chapter meeting was to review /revise and find out way forward to revitalize Nepal Chapter.

In order to establish a background, the deliberations included presentation on CityNet briefing and status of Nepal Chapter. The meeting also discussed on possible actions to be undertaken with the support of CityNet Clusters, namely: Climate Change, Physical Infrastructure, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed actions that was recommended by the meeting has been synthesized, consolidated and presented in the CityNet Executive Meeting on November 7. The recommendations included: Capacity Building, Exposure visits, Review of CityNet Clusters to accommodate wider areas of urban concern and Revitalization of CityNet Nepal Chapter.

(Reported by Mr. Prafulla Man Singh Pradhan, who facilitated one of the sessions)

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director, NSET, Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of LMC and by Mr. Hari Bahadur Mahat, Mayor of Hetauda LMC. CityNet programs was presented by Mr. Kendra Hirata, Director CityNet Yokohama office.

Mr. Ashok Kumay Byanju Shrestha, Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality and Chair of Municipality Association of Nepal shared his experiences.

Mr. Ganesh Kumar Jimjee, Director NSET spoke on Partnership to Enhance Disaster Resiliency for Nepalese Cities, and Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha shared the Future Plans and Programs on Nepal Chapter.



About CityNet

CITYNET
THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

CityNet is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in Asia Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP,

UNDP and UN-Habitat, the Network of cities has grown to include more than 135 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers. CityNet connects actors, exchange knowledge and build commitment to establish more sustainable and resilient cities.

CityNet helps build leadership capacity to develop and prosper the cities through exchange of good practices and experiences between cities and affiliated organizations. It promotes cooperative links and partnerships throughout the Asia Pacific in order to improve the sustainability of our cities.

Lalitpur Metropolitan City is a member of CityNet for the past two decades and it was elected to Executive Committee

Member last year. There are 18 members of CityNet in Nepal, including 14 municipalities. Lalitpur Metropolitan City has hosted 38th Executive Committee meeting of CityNet together with an international seminar on 'Heritage and Sustainable Tourism'.

The three-day program is believed to help promote Nepal's tourism worldwide through the 88 foreign delegates, including 14 Mayors and heads of various international organizations participating, together with 43 local delegates. It is a great opportunity for Nepal and Lalitpur Metropolitan City to introduce itself to the entire world, especially in the context of Visit Nepal Year 2020, announced by the government of Nepal. The CityNet's program will greatly help to promote Visit Nepal Year 2020 and will also pave the way for cooperation in the field of tourism development and heritage conservation in Nepal.

This program will be important for exchanging experiences between municipalities in Asia and the Pacific region. Nepali municipalities that are members of CityNet include Bharatpur, Biratnagar, Pokhara, Kathmandu, Godavari, Mahalaxmi and Tansen. Similarly, Birgunj, Dharan, Hetaunda sub-metropolitan cities are also the members of CityNet.



Address by the Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal



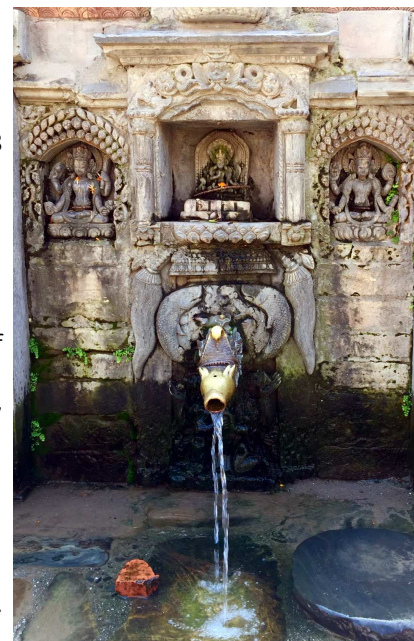
General Secretary of CityNet Mr. Vijaya Jagannathan addressing Inaugural Session



Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan welcoming the guests

38th CityNet Executive Committee Meeting

- Item 1: Election of the Vice Chairperson
- Item 2: Adoption of the Agendas
- Item 3: Report of the 37th session of Executive Committee held on November 21, 2018 in Da Nang
- Item 4: Annual Report for the year 2018
- Item 5: Audit Report for the year 2018
- Item 6: Ratification of Appointments of Secretariat staff
- Item 7: Report of the institutional & program activities for the year 2019
- Item 8: Report on Admission of new members
- Item 9: Report on Suspicion, Termination, Withdrawal of Membership & reduction of Membership Fees
- Item 10: Reports and Plans on National Chapters (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines)
- Item 11: Report of the Clusters: Climate Change, Disaster, Infrastructure and SDG
- Item 12: Report and Plan of CityNet Yokohama Project Office
- Item 13: Report on Budget, Institutional and Program Activities for the year 2020
- Item 14: Report on Biennial Program Activities for the year 2020-21
- Item 15: Other Matters
- Item 16: Date and Venue of 39th Session of the Executive Committee of CityNet in 2020.
- Item 17: CityNet Think City MoU Signing



Meeting Deliberations:

CityNet members consist of full members (city governments) as well as associate members (organisations, academic sector, NGOs and private sector companies). As of January 2019, CityNet has 154 members out of which 99 are city governments and 55 are organisations and institutions.

The 38th CityNet Executive Committee meeting approved an additional 11 full members and 5 associate members. Among the new members Bheemdatta Municipality and Dhangadhi Municipality are the full members from Nepal. Two Associate Members: NAST and Lumanti of Nepal have also been approved.

The key issues raised during the CityNet Executive Committee meeting are the need to improve financial status and to increase more urban stakeholders who may play a key role in providing the solutions that the cities may need to address the growing urban issues.

As the host of CityNet National Chapter Nepal, NSET presented the common issues of the cities in Nepal which includes disaster risk reduction, solid waste management, pollution, governance, income generation etc. The Executive Committee will examine the concerns of the members in Nepal through further engagements and dialogues to find out viable solutions.

In order to access CityNet services, the members were also encouraged to sign up in 2 clusters that may address their priority issues and communicate with CityNet Secretariat so that coordination and follow-up of activities could be initiated.

The 38th Executive Committee Meeting discussed all the agenda items and adopted reports presented there. A MOU was signed to hold the 39th Executive Meeting of CityNet in Jeju island, Republic of Korea during 23-25 April 2020.

(Reported by Mr. Kendra Hirata, Director of Program CityNet Yokohama Office)

The meeting also adopted 16 new members (11 full members and 5 Associate members):

Full Members:

1. Jambi City, Indonesia
2. City Government of Sorsogon, Philippines
3. Taoyuan City Government, Chinese Taipei
4. Gwangjin-gu, Republic of Korea
5. Jungnang-gu, Republic of Korea
6. City of Masbate, Philippines
7. Bheemdatta Municipality, Nepal
8. Guro-gu, Republic of Korea
9. Dhangadi Sub-Metropolitan City, Nepal
10. Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Council, Republic of Korea
11. Local Government Unit-Cauayan City, Philippines

Associate Members:

1. Think City Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
2. Nepal Academy of Science & Technology, Nepal
3. InnoCSR Co; Ltd, Republic of Korea
4. Lumanti (Memory) Support Group for Shelter, Nepal
5. RMS Consulting Co. Ltd, Republic of Korea



Heritage Walk of Lalitpur



(Nakabahal - Nyakha Chuka - Nag Bahal - Golden Temple - Newa Chhen - Swatha Square – Patan Durbar Square)
Before the inaugural session, the foreign delegates participated in 'heritage walk' from Patan Dhoka to Patan Durbar Square, where a troupe of artists performed cultural procession and dances.



Heritage walk of Bungamati City, Lalitpur



The inaugural session was followed by cultural dances of different tribal groups of Nepal including Bhairav + Kali dance representing Tangible reality and immense power of Goddess Kali.

Local Press Clippings

After the informal meet with the leading editors of local media on November 5 and a Press Meet on November 6 to brief about the CityNet meeting and its significance for Nepal, several press and online medias and national TV gave a good coverage of the CityNet event in Lalitpur. Some clippings of the local press covering the event are reproduced below:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2019 | 04

THE KATHMANDU POST

CityNet hosts seminar to discuss heritage and tourism

More than 150 delegates from Asia-Pacific region are in Lalitpur for the event.

ANUP OJHA
LALITPUR, NOV 6

CityNet, a network of organisations in the Asia Pacific region that are working towards sustainable development, on Wednesday began a three-day seminar in Lalitpur aiming to promote heritage and sustainable tourism and address challenges in heritage conservation and climate change.

The seminar, which will also be mulling over issues such as disaster risk reduction and infrastructure development, is being held at the premises of the Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

Inaugurating the seminar, after a heritage walk from Patan Dhoka to Patan Durbar Square which saw cultural processions and dances from Newari communities, Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun said that such events hold great value in preparing for 'Visit Nepal Year 2020', under which the government is aiming to bring in to the country some two million tourists.

"I am overwhelmed to know that more than 150 representatives from various cities representing 10 countries of Asia Pacific region have gathered in Lalitpur. I am very thankful to Lalitpur Metropolitan City for organising such a grand event," said Pun.

The representatives are scheduled to take part in a heritage walk in Bungmati on Thursday. The city is well known for wood carvings and was severely damaged by the 2015 earthquake.

The 38th executive committee meeting of CityNet aims to promote Nepal's tourism worldwide through 88 foreign delegates, including 14 mayors and heads of various international organisations besides 43 local representatives from Nepal.

Speaking at a press meet on Wednesday, Vijay Jagannathan, secretary-general of CityNet, elaborated on how the member countries and municipalities can work together to preserve their tangible and intangible heritage which are under risk. "If you reduce the number of vehicles and air pollution, this will help to make a liveable city. We, as an organisation, want to educate and give an orientation of our members so that they take leadership and work for change in different sectors in the region," said Jagannathan.

Founded in 1987, CityNet is a network of 135 municipalities, NGOs and private companies.

Talking to the Post, Lalitpur's Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan said that organising such a seminar is a significant breakthrough. "Our metropolitan city was involved with CityNet for the past two decades, but from last year we became an executive member of CityNet, and thus were able to bring the delegates here," Maharjan added.

Talking about the significance of connecting with CityNet, he said the city has trained many engineers post 2015 and has started teaching an online course in community schools in all 29 wards besides forming disaster risk reduction centres in all wards to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster.

He further said the city is all set to prevent two- and four-wheeled vehicles from entering the Patan area which is an 'open museum' and a heritage site.



Executive committee meeting of CityNet begins in Lalitpur

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, November 6

The 38th executive committee meeting of CityNet, an organisation of 135 municipalities and urban stakeholders of 22 countries in Asia-Pacific region, working in the field of sustainable urban development, kicked off in Lalitpur today.

Around 88 foreign delegates representing various municipalities and urban stakeholders participated in 'heritage walk' from Patan Dhoka to Patan Durbar Square today.

The participants of the walk then gathered at Bhandarkhal garden where Vice-president Nanda Bahadur Pun formally inaugurated the three-day event.

The event will help share knowledge about development of Lalitpur Metropolitan City and other member cities of CityNet. The event will also provide a platform to inform foreign nationals about Visit Nepal-2020.

CityNet was founded in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP and UN-Habitat, where 135 members, including municipalities and urban organisations, work together to build sustainable cities.

LMC became member of CityNet 29 years ago, and till date there are 14 local governments and four urban organisations as members of CityNet in Nepal. Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City is the chair municipality of Nepal



Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Chiri Babu Maharjan (right) addressing CityNet participants, in Lalitpur, on Wednesday.

chapter of CityNet.

Welcoming the foreign delegates in Patan, Vice-president Pun said since the country was witnessing a stable political environment and was heading towards economic prosperity, the event would be instrumental to identify problems in urban areas and explore ways to solve them. He also requested the participants to increase the number of metropolitan cities under CityNet.

Mayor of LMC Chiri Babu Maharjan, during the press meet said the organisation would be a good platform for

sharing ideas on how to conserve sites of cultural value, natural resources and carry out development works.

General Secretary of CityNet Vijay Jagannathan stressed the importance of taking timely measures to address burning issues such as global warming.

"Cities should be built for people not for cars," Jagannathan said at the press meet. He further said although it might sound like science fiction, negative impacts of global warming will be seen after 45 to 50 years. He said the problem could be solved if use of fossil fuel was minimised.

República

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Asia-Pacific mayors vow to work for sustainable, resilient cities

ADITI BARAL
KATHMANDU, Nov 6

Mayors of over a dozen metropolitan cities of the Asia Pacific region have vowed to work together in the field of sustainable urban development. They made a pledge to work together to establish more sustainable and resilient cities during the International Seminar on Heritage and Sustainable Tourism that kicked off in Lalitpur on Wednesday.

The seminar organized alongside the 38th executive committee meeting of

CityNet is being attended by 88 foreign delegates including 14 mayors.

Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun inaugurated the seminar amid a special function held at Patan Durbar Square. He said that CityNet—an organization of municipalities in Asia Pacific region together with other stakeholders working in the field of sustainable urban development—can play a greater role in making the cities of Nepal more standard and smart.

With the collaboration of 135 municipalities, NGOs,

private companies and research centers and working with the support of international bodies like UNESCAP, UNDO and UN Habitat, CityNet is recognized as the largest network of cities that collaboratively work hand in hand in the sector of sustainable and resilient development of cities.

Since the last three decades, the organization has successfully worked for promotion of exchange in knowledge and practices, combating global climate change and disaster resilience, advancing urban issues on the global

sustainability agenda and has been shaping the largest network of urban stakeholders across the Asia Pacific region.

Lalitpur Metropolitan City was elected as CityNet executive committee member last year in a convention held in Sri Lanka.

"Our membership as executive committee member of this organization has been helping Nepalese cities to connect with other cities and stakeholders in order to discuss about the urban issues that we are facing," said Lalitpur's Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan.

Impressions of the CityNet Meet in Nepal



Secretary General of CityNet Mr. Vijaya Jagannathan was very pleased the way the meeting was organized in Nepal in a very impressive and professional manner. "We started with pre-excom yesterday to discuss internal issues. Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan was elected as Vice Chair of the meeting," he said.

We organize such meetings every year to share with executive members and also to plan ahead for next year's program. Each time one city is a host city and we focus a lot on issues of that city. In the case of Lalitpur, the Mayor's interest was that Nepal's 2020 Tourism year is coming, how can Lalitpur help in achieving the 2 million tourists coming in and give them a good experience, what is the kind of advise which CityNet can give and also to get feed back.

"We also took a tour of cultural heritage. What we saw was quite impressive with huge amount of efforts and most of the works have benefitted the public. The money received from the government and the World Bank were well spent. We found many of the buildings have been upgraded and converted into small boutique hotels and restaurants and so on."

"The impression I got out of all this is that a lot has been done in terms of improving pavements of the roads, putting in the drains, getting the tanks and ponds in better shape. And once you start doing that the theory of urbanization is if you put public infrastructure, private people will also help to improve because the value of private property goes up. They can make more money on selling their services. We see that happening. Of course there are issues that some of the very old buildings which are part of the heritage. Families after 2-3 generations don't want to keep it like that, they want to sell it. That is the problem in all cultural heritage sites. How to balance between something very beautiful cultural heritage and the interest of the owners. They do not want to stay in a very old building, while visiting foreign tourists would love to see them. That is the kind of problem we saw here also. The second thing is the increasing vehicular traffic creating congestion and pollution. It is bad for people specially the children. This definitely hearts tourism, because they spend lot less time if the area is too much congested. So, it hearts the income source."

"My suggestion to the Mayor is why not use social media to involve young people, let them start saying no traffic zone in certain areas like cultural heritage sites. Ultimately you have get the public supporting your ideas as they are getting some benefit out of it. Our suggestions is to have the lot of ponds and lakes as water is the integral part of city culture. We carry a very positive impression of Lalitpur, Nepal."



बैठक र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सेमिनार ललितपुर

महानगरका लागि गौरव र खुशी दुवै

- चिरीबाबु महर्जन, प्रमुख, ललितपुर महानगरपालिका



ललितपुर महानगरपालिकाको लागि सिटीनेटको ३८ औं कार्यसमिति बैठक र सम्पदा र दिगो पर्यटन विषयक अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सेमिनार आयोजना गर्न पाउनु गर्वको कुरा हो । ललितपुर महानगरपालिका सिटीनेटको कार्यसमिति सदस्यमा अधिल्लो वर्ष निर्वाचित भएको हो ।

सिटीनेटसँगको आबद्धताले ललितपुर महानगरपालिकाले उपलब्धि हासिल गरेको छ । प्रकोप न्यूनिकरणका उपायहरू र केही स्रोत साधनमा महानगरले सहयोग पाएको छ । ललितपुरका केही विद्यालय र त्यहाँका शिक्षक र विद्यार्थीमा प्राविधिक क्षमता विकासका लागि कम्प्युटरको सहयोग प्राप्त भएको छ ।

सबैभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण कुरा त के हो भने, एसिया प्रशान्त क्षेत्रका सहरहरूबीचको समस्यामा हामी एकैसाथ छलफल गर्ने अवसर प्राप्त भएको छ । सिटीनेटको सदस्यता पाउनु समस्या समाधानका लागि छलफल गर्दै, त्यसको समाधानका लागि सामुहिक तवरबाट काम गर्ने अवसर समेत हो ।

३८ औं कार्यसमितिको बैठकले २ नगरपालिकाहरूले यसको सदस्यता प्राप्त गरेका छन् । यस अघि नेपालका १४ वटा नगरपालिका सिटीनेटमा आबद्ध थिए ।

नेपाल भ्रमण वर्ष २०२०को डेढ महिना अघि आयोजना भएको यो बैठक र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सेमिनारले नेपाल सरकार लक्ष्य अनुसार पर्यटक भित्र्याउन सहयोग गर्ने अपेक्षा गरेको छ । यस अर्थमा पनि यो कार्यक्रम महत्वपूर्ण रहेको छ । अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय जगतमा बुद्धको देश, सगरमाथाको देश भनेर चिनिएको नेपाललाई कला,संस्कृति र सम्पदाले सम्पन्न ललितपुरको देश भनेर समेत चिनाउन यो कार्यक्रम कोशेदुगा सावित हुने विश्वास छ ।

Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC) Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan feels glorious and happy to host the CityNet Executive Committee meeting and International Seminar in Lalitpur. LMC was elected as executive committee member of CityNet last year.

The membership has helped to minimize disaster relief measures. Technical capability of many schools in the district has been upgraded with computer based education. The most important benefit is the common platform in Asia Pacific region where common problems can be shared and problems solved.

Two more municipalities of Nepal have gained CityNet membership this year, thus increasing the number to 14 municipalities of Nepal affiliated to CityNet. I believe the CityNet meeting and international seminar on Heritage & Sustainable Tourism greatly help Nepal's Visit Nepal Year 2020. This event will help expose Nepal as a birthplace of Lord Buddha, a country of Sagarmatha, the Mount Everest and the heritages of Lalitpur: a City of Fine Arts.

Published for Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Nepal on the occasion of the 38th Executive Meeting of CityNet

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