

Reporting Yokohama's Major
International Projects

YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL DIGEST

December 18, 2018
Published by Yokohama International
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【Deputy Mayor Kobayashi's presentation at the Japan Pavilion, COP24】

Deputy Mayor Kobayashi attends COP24, talks decarbonization in Yokohama

From December 2 to 14, Deputy Mayor Kobayashi represented the City of Yokohama at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Katowice, Poland.



The Deputy Mayor spoke at the "Decarbonizing era in Cities and Regions" session at the Japanese Pavilion, presented by the Ministry of the Environment and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), as well as a session at the main Congress Centre on dialogues with cities and regions, put on by ICLEI and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. At each, he shared decarbonization policies the city is pursuing with the international community. The Asia Smart City Conference, an international platform for city leaders and experts in industry, institutions, and academia to discuss realizing sustainable development practices, was one such initiative raised as a positive example.

Over 18,000 representatives and delegates from 1,911 national government agencies, local governments, international organizations, research institutions, private firms, and NGOs attended.

"Picture Diary of Environment" - The future as drawn by the children of Africa

An exhibition featuring pictures created by African children, "Picture Diary of Environment," was jointly presented by the Yokohama Resources and Waste Recycling Bureau, JICA, and JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) as a collaborative project with the African Clean Cities Platform in Osanbashi Hall on December 2.



The thoughts and dreams of the local youths and volunteers serving in Africa were captured in over 600 "picture diary" pieces produced by children there. A JOCV volunteer who had lived in Africa drew gave additional perspective to the pieces. They also demonstrated making a "kendama" toy from plastic bottles, an activity they used in Africa when teaching about the environment. Visitors wrote messages to the young artists in Africa, which JOCV volunteers will deliver.



Makati City firefighters receive training in Yokohama's fire and rescue techniques

From December 3 to 11, eight representatives including fire rescue personnel from Makati City in the Philippines underwent training in firefighting and rescue operations at the Yokohama Fire Academy.

Makati City, a member of Asia-based CITYNET (the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements) like Yokohama, plans to establish a facility to provide training in disaster resilience and response to both city personnel and members of the public. Yokohama shares a 3-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Makati, and has provided support for the development of the planned facility by providing crisis management training opportunities for its future instructors.



During this training course, the first via the MoU, Makati City personnel heard presentations on the principles of firefighting operations and safety management and took part in practical training exercises. They also visited the Tsuzuki Ward Fire Station to observe daily training and other operations.