

Y-PORT CENTER GALERIO ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

GALERIO Activities





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INTRODUCTION

About GALERIO Committee

■ About GALERIO

GALERIO was established in 2020 in the Y-PORT Center Public-Private Partnership Office as a base for further accelerating the overseas transmission of Yokohama city solutions. GALERIO, equipped with communication functions and VR content, will hold international conferences and workshops with related parties in Japan and overseas. The name GALERIO is taken from the Esperanto language, which means Gallery in English, with the purpose of acting as a bridge between each language and culture. The name was given in the hope that it will be a place where people from Japan and overseas can easily gather together, where information on Yokohama's urban development and urban development can be summarized.

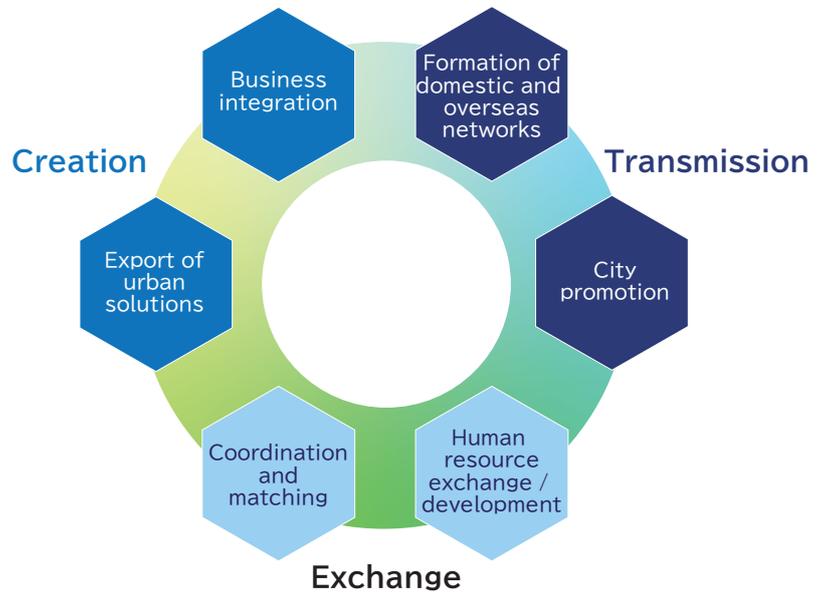
■ About GALERIO Committee

The GALERIO Planning Committee is a committee composed of the City of Yokohama and international organizations and academic institutions that have worked with the City of Yokohama in various ways. The GALERIO Planning Committee is an organization that realizes GALERIO's objective of disseminating Yokohama's urban solutions to the rest of the world.

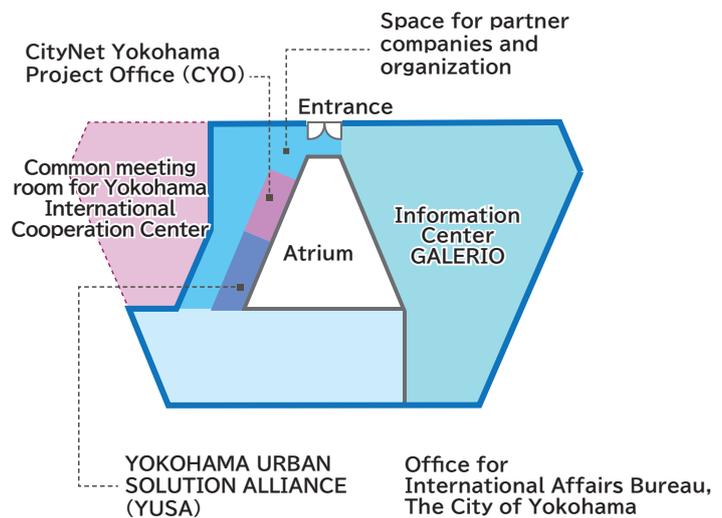
■ About GALERIO Annual Report

The GALERIO Annual Report is intended to be used as a communication tool for officials of local governments and developers who are responsible for urban development in Asian countries, by disseminating and sharing widely the contents of discussions held by the GALERIO Planning Committee, an overview of this year's Asia Smart City Conference, and the collaborative activities of GALERIO and each member organization of the GALERIO Planning Committee.

Three roles and six functions of GALERIO



Y-PORT Center Office



Yokohama International Organizations Center 6F,
1-1-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, 220-0012, JAPAN

INTRODUCTION

About the Committee Members and their Relationship with the City of Yokohama



Asia Development Bank
Institute

Connection with Yokohama City

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the City of Yokohama signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation in 2013.
- Collaboration in the Asia Smart City Conference. ADBI has been participating as a co-organizer since the 7th conference onward.

Mr. Tetsushi Sonobe



Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies
(IGES)

Connection with Yokohama City

- IGES and the City of Yokohama signed an Agreement on Collaboration and Cooperation in 2015.
- JICA Partnership Program (Solid Waste Management Project for Promoting Segregation and Recycling in Da Nang City - Horizontal Expansion of Yokohama G30/3R Dream (Slim) - (Phase 2)) is currently being implemented.
- Promotion of Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which is a system for voluntarily reviewing SDG initiatives and reporting them to the international community, to Asian cities.

Ms. Yatsuka Kataoka



Smart City Institute Japan

Connection with Yokohama City

- The City of Yokohama is a supporting member of SCI-Japan.
- SCI-Japan has signed a memorandum of understanding with the City of Yokohama and Yokohama City University to collaborate on utilizing Liveable Well-Being City Indicators.

Mr. Takehiko Nagumo



Japan International
Cooperation Agency

Connection with Yokohama City

- JICA and the City of Yokohama signed a Comprehensive Collaborative Agreement in 2011. Based on the memorandum, we cooperate in a wide range of areas, including international technical cooperation through public-private partnerships, JICA Partnership Programs, accepting training projects, supporting citizens to send overseas volunteers, conducting on-site lectures at schools in the city, collaborative projects with African countries through TICAD, anniversary projects with Yokohama's sister cities, and personnel exchanges.
- Currently providing assistance for the restoration and reconstruction of Odesa, Ukraine.

Mr. Masahiro Ueki





World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center

Connection with Yokohama City

- Currently promoting the City Partnership Program (CPP) with seven cities in Japan (from the east: Yokohama, Toyama, Kyoto, Kobe, Hiroshima, Kitakyushu, and Fukuoka) promoted by the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC).
- The World Bank has published the "Yokohama Sourcebook," a report compiling Yokohama's know-how and knowledge on urban development.
- Collaboration in the Asia Smart City Conference. WB TDLC has participated as a co-organizer since the 7th conference.



Mr. Christopher Pablo



Yokohama City University

Connection with Yokohama City

- Collaboration through various opportunities, such as academic exchanges with sister and partner cities, hosting international events such as lectures by ambassadors to Japan, and Yokohama City University extension courses.
- Collaboration in nurturing international human resources, including the presentation of "Joint Proposal on Urban Challenges by University Students from Yokohama and Abroad: Resilience in Informal Settlements" at the Asia Smart City Conference.



Prof. Masahiko Nakanishi

YNU Yokohama National University

Connection with Yokohama City

- In 2013, Yokohama National University and the City of Yokohama signed a Comprehensive Agreement on Cooperation and Collaboration for Urban and Regional Revitalization.
- As part of a city-to-city cooperation project between Yokohama and Da Nang, Yokohama National University and a local company, Osumi Co., Ltd., are jointly implementing a JICA Partnership Program (Project for Improving Energy Saving for Citizens in Danang, Vietnam).



Prof. Satoru Sadohara



YOKOHAMA URBAN SOLUTION ALLIANCE

Connection with Yokohama City

- YUSA and the City of Yokohama signed a partnership agreement in 2017.
- In May 2023, the City of Yokohama designated YUSA as a regional revitalization promotion corporation for the regional revitalization plan aimed at creating a decarbonized ecosystem, and is currently working together to promote the City of Yokohama Regional Revitalization Plan.



Mr. Yuichiro Imatomi

City of Yokohama

- The City of Yokohama promotes international projects based on the philosophy of growing with the world, including partnerships with overseas cities and international cooperation.
- The "International Technical Cooperation through Public-Private Partnership Utilizing Yokohama's Resources and Technology (Y-PORT) Pro-ject," which utilizes the city's urban development experience and corporate technology and know-how, has contributed to solving local urban problems in Asian cities in various fields such as waste recycling, water supply and sewage system development, and support for the introduction of green energy, together with local companies. Y-PORT Project" has contributed to solving local urban issues in Asian cities in various fields such as waste recycling, water supply and sewerage systems, and green energy.



Mr. Norio Tomioka

Feature 01

GALERIO Activities

Many collaborative activities with international organizations have been carried out at GALERIO. This feature will introduce the main activities.

Asian Development Bank Institute



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- A high-level mission of 11 members from the ADB headquarters visited the Hokubu Sludge Treatment Plant and the Port of Yokohama. The tour introduced the city's efforts toward decarbonization, such as the carbon-neutral port, and discussed how Yokohama's administrative know-how and corporate technology could be utilized in ADB projects.
- ADBI invited senior officials from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of India to introduce the current development status of Minato Mirai 21 and exchanged views on the development of industrial hubs.
- Conducted training on solid waste for practitioners in charge of waste management (the second training session following 2019).
- Y-PORT workshops were held in July and December, focusing on the role of ADB and the project formation process. Participants discussed how Japanese companies can participate in ADB projects in the fields of transportation, water, and urban development.
- At the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, a session was held on the theme of decarbonization of port cities, where port managers and port city officials from Asian countries discussed current issues and solutions.

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- A meeting was held at GALERIO to discuss with stakeholders the JICA grassroots technical cooperation project (Solid Waste Management Project for Promoting Segregation and Recycling in Da Nang City - Horizontal Expansion of Yokohama G30/3R Dream (Slim) - (Phase 2)) for Da Nang City, Vietnam. The final report meeting for this project was held in Da Nang City in December, and the improvements in the model area, such as the method of waste separation and collection, were evaluated.
- At the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, in the CITYNET session "Synergies of SDGs and Climate Action," CITYNET member cities held an in-depth discussion on the importance of applying the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level and on decarbonization.
- With the aim of promoting Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to Asian cities, the City of Yokohama shared the and knowledge on SDGs/VLR together with IGES at the international conference (APFSD) hosted by ESCAP.
- Exhibited at the international conference (International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific: ISAP) hosted by IGES and publicized Yokohama's activities.

Japan International Cooperation Agency



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- The government officials of developing countries were invited to Yokohama as training participants. Training programs were conducted in such field as waterworks, solid waste management and decarbonization, and the technology and know-how that the City of Yokohama has were comprehensively transferred, then the solutions to the issues were discussed. Through these training programs, the bureaus in charge of the City of Yokohama's policies and infrastructure introduced examples of the city's practices in a wide range of areas, including regional development, urban transportation, disaster prevention, and climate change mitigation.
- Indonesian officers in charge of urban planning in the cities surrounding the newly developing capital city of Indonesia stayed in Yokohama for 2 months from October 2024. They learned Yokohama's practical examples to address the urban issues and discussed the utilization to urban policy of Indonesia. During their stays, they received lectures by the experts and engineers, and also met with private companies in Yokohama.
- The 13th Asia Smart City Conference, marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's international cooperation, looked back on the role that Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) has played to cope with the climate change with cities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Good practices were also introduced and discussion was made on countermeasures to address urban climate change and promoting collaboration between the local government and private sector.

Smart City Institute Japan



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- SCI-Japan hosted the Japan Pavilion at the Smart City Expo World Congress, one of the world's largest smart city events, held in Barcelona, Spain in November 2024. Through a booth exhibit and presentations, the City of Yokohama introduced its efforts toward carbon neutrality by 2050, plans to hold GREEN×EXPO 2027, and achievements in international cooperation such as the Y-PORT project.
- At the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, case studies of policymaking to promote smart cities and well-being in Yokohama and South Korea were presented, and discussions were held on the city design aimed at improving the well-being of citizens, as well as the results and effects of policymaking based on analysis of well-being indicators.

Yokohama City University



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- A lecture was held on urban development and urban design in Yokohama for students from Thammasat University in Thailand, which is a partner institution of the Yokohama City University Global Cooperation Institute for Sustainable Cities (GCI).
- At the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, students presented the results of their joint proposals for strategies to solve urban issues under the theme of building resilient and safe communities in informal settlements with high disaster risk. With the aim of developing international human resources, students from Yokohama City University took charge of tasks involving opportunities for dialogue with overseas government officials, such as reception of visitors from overseas, venue guidance, and acting as interviewers.

Yokohama National University



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- As part of JICA's Partnership Project (Project for Improving Energy Saving for Citizens in Danang, Vietnam), a workshop on energy conservation in buildings in hot and humid regions was held in conjunction with the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, and a final report session was held in Da Nang City in December.
- Yokohama National University, JICA and YUSA collaborated to hold a two-month series of lectures entitled "International Development Cooperation from the Field," aimed at 38 undergraduate and graduate students from across Japan. Students worked on creating business proposals for local development issues (three areas: education, waste management and urban transport) provided by the JICA Bangladesh Office, and exchanged opinions with private companies, including YUSA member companies. In addition, practical learning opportunities were provided, with specific feedback from practitioners at the JICA Bangladesh Office and other relevant organizations on presentations by student groups.

YOKOHAMA URBAN SOLUTION ALLIANCE



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- YUSA has been commissioned by JICA this year to conduct JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program to promote climate change measures and decarbonization, and introduced the policies and technologies of the city and its companies to trainees from six participating countries. The program was an opportunity to promote GREEN×EXPO 2027, which is scheduled to be held in 2027, as well as to work toward the realization of a decarbonized society. The trainees were highly satisfied with the content of the program, which was highly appreciated for its ability to respond to climate change countermeasures that each country is facing, such as waste management and flood countermeasures.
- YUSA, local companies, and the City of Yokohama engaged in a series of dialogues to promote the formation of overseas infrastructure businesses, making maximum use of government support programs. In cooperation with the YUSA Overseas Cooperation Office, YUSA held four business matching events with Vietnamese and Thai companies and supported individual business negotiations between companies as follow-up after the events.
- At the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, YUSA actively coordinated meeting opportunities between exhibiting companies interested in overseas infrastructure business and participating cities from overseas, supporting the formation of networks between overseas cities and exhibiting companies.

World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- As part of the City Partnership Program, two training programs, "Cybersecurity Technical Deep Dive (TDD)" and "Waterfront Redevelopment TDD" were conducted. The training program on waterfront redevelopment introduced case studies of redevelopment in waterfront urban centers such as the Minato Mirai 21 district.
- Y-PORT workshops were held in September on the World Bank's procurement mechanisms and business processes, and discussions were held on how local companies can participate in World Bank projects.
- The 13th Asia Smart City Conference session focused on the theme of "Building Livable, Green, and Resilient Cities," and participants from overseas cities discussed policy measures to promote urban livability and resilience, as well as the challenges of achieving these goals.

| The City of Yokohama

(1) Y-PORT Projects

ACTIVITIES

At GALERIO, we have hosted 1,070 visitors and trainees from overseas, including government organizations, overseas cities, JICA Partnership Programs, ADB/ADBI Solid Waste Management Workshops, and World Bank TDDs, across 45 cases. Through these interactions, we have widely disseminated and shared information on Yokohama's urban development expertise and infrastructure technology.

As part of the program for the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, an international conference hosted by Yokohama, five site visit tours were conducted for overseas participants to observe the city's decarbonization measures, starting from GALERIO. At the 13th conference, under the slogan "Asian Cities Together for a Greener Future," a wide range of participants, from leaders of Asian nations to young professionals in Japan, gathered for lively discussions and exchanges. In addition, 39 Asian cities and organizations endorsed the Yokohama Declaration, with six international organizations in attendance. Through discussions with the leaders of Asian cities, new projects and collaborations are actively being developed.

GALERIO is not only an initiative of the Yokohama International Affairs Bureau but also involves other bureaus within the city government. For instance, this year, the Green Environment Bureau held the Japan-China-Korea Biodiversity Policy Dialogue, while the Zero Carbon and GREENxEXPO Promotion Bureau held the Yokohama Future Creation Conference. Furthermore, in collaboration with YUSA, we invited lecturers from international organizations to conduct Y-PORT Workshops, and held business matching events between Yokohama based companies and overseas cities and companies, creating various opportunities for international exchange.

(2) Collaboration with in-house organizations



ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Inter-University Centre for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) held a graduation ceremony, where about 50 IUC students, who are expected to play active roles in the world in the future, presented their original research on Japanese culture, politics, and economy in high-level Japanese.
- The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Environmental Planning Bureau of Yokohama co-hosted a summer class for elementary school students in the city titled "Let's Protect the Forest by "Using Them" (Kodomo Adventure College)". The Japan Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a global career guidance for young talents seeking international cooperation and international organizations, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others participated in the Youth Biodiversity Symposium 2023 in Yokohama, organized by the Environment Planning Bureau and others.
- In order to effectively communicate the activities of Yokohama International Organizations Center and their projects in collaboration with the City of

Tenant Organizations of Yokohama International Organizations Center:

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC), Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE), World Food Programme (WFP) Japan Office, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Liaison Office in Japan, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Japan Office, CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO), Yokohama Urban Solution Alliance (YUSA)

Feature 02

The 13th Asia Smart City Conference

Asia Smart City Conference Pre-Conference Event

This feature introduces the pre-conference event of the 13th Asia Smart City Conference held at GALERIO.



The 13th Asia Smart City Conference Event outline

About Asia Smart City Conference

The Asia Smart City Conference (hereinafter referred to as "ASCC") is an international conference that brings together representatives from Asian cities, national governments, international organizations, academic institutions, and private companies, aiming to discuss on the realization of a sustainable city where economic growth and a favorable urban environment are compatible. At the conference, representatives from cities present their visions for growth as well as their current challenges and needs; private companies and academic institutions propose innovative solutions; international organizations offer programs to support efforts by cities and private companies; and best practices from around the world are shared. Furthermore, we offer an occasion for participants to find new business opportunities.

Special features of the 13th ASCC

For the 13th Asia Smart City Conference, through the theme of "Decarbonization," we will bring together Asian cities, international organizations, private companies, academic institutions, and a diversity of domestic and overseas stake holders, sharing challenges for the implementation of a decarbonized society, visions for growth, as well as innovative solutions based on state-of-the-art technologies.

Outline

[Dates] October 22 – 24, 2024

[Participants] 2,200+

[Venue] PACIFICO Yokohama North

[Yokohama Declaration] 39 cities and institutions endorsed / Witnessed by 6 international organizations

[Organizer] City of Yokohama

[Exhibitors] 46

[Co-organizers] Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC)

[Number of Countries] 46

[Sponsorship] Cabinet Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of the Environment, CITYNET, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Representation Office in Tokyo

[Supported by 7 companies]

The Furukawa Battery Co., Ltd. /
Kyosan Electric Manufacturing Co., Ltd. /
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Ohkawa Printing Co., Ltd. /
TAKE AND GIVE. NEEDS Co., Ltd. /
The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd.

古河電池

よろこびがたく世界へ

[Theme] Asian Cities Together for a Greener Future

[Business exchanges between foreign cities and Japanese companies] 1,100+

[Sessions] 18

[Speakers] 99

Pre-Conference Event - Site Visit of Urban Infrastructure Facilities -

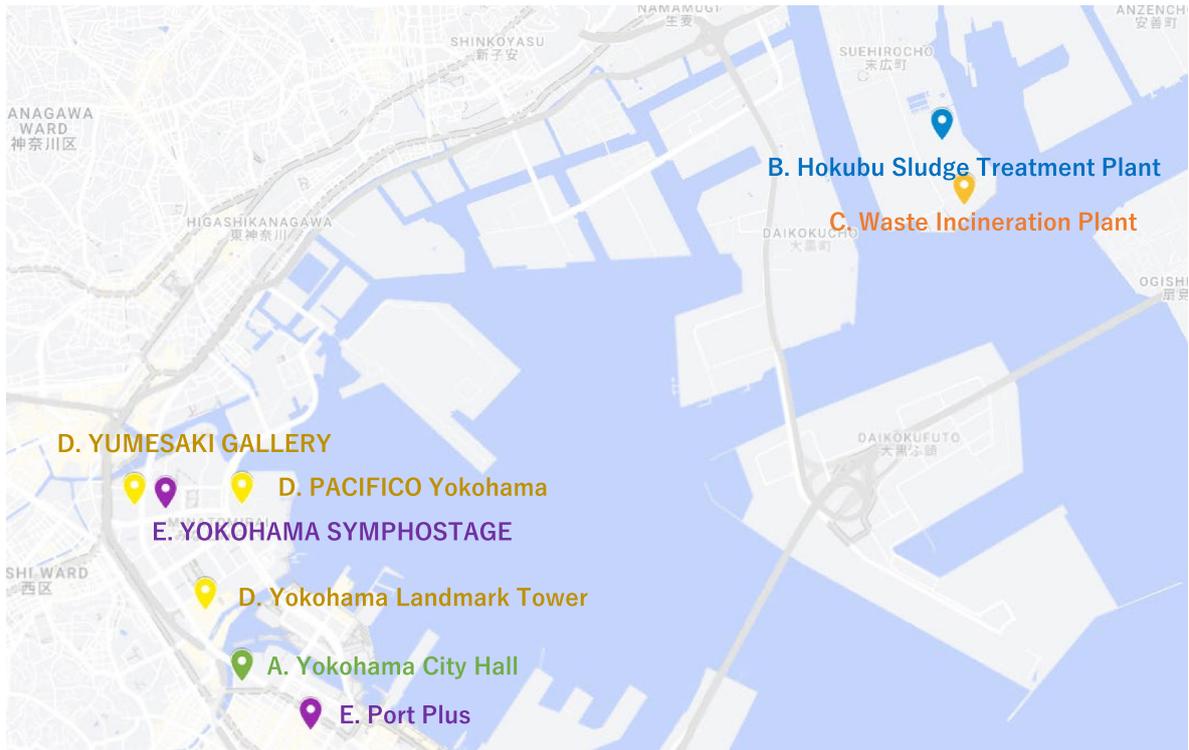
Site visit tour of urban infrastructure facilities in Yokohama was conducted for invited cities and organizations. There were five tours as listed in the table below, with 75 participants from 13 countries. Tours focused on facilities leading Yokohama City’s advanced decarbonization efforts, including initiatives such as advanced business district of Minato Mirai 21 (MM21), recognized as a “Decarbonization Leading Area” by the Ministry of the Environment, the cutting-edge water circulation technologies and sludge recycling facility that utilizes circular-oriented technologies.

<p>Tour A Promotion of Green Energy</p>	<p>[Yokohama City Hall] The City of Yokohama opened its new city hall in 2020 with a concept of Zero-Energy Building (ZEB) that exhibits the highest level of energy saving performance and promotes local consumption of renewable energy. Certified as ZEB Ready.</p>
<p>Tour B Advanced Technology of Water Circulation</p>	<p>[Hokubu Sludge Treatment Plant] Sewage sludge from the Water Reclamation Center is processed, and the resulting digestion gas, incineration ash, and fuel materials are utilized to foster a circular society.</p>
<p>Tour C CCU Pilot Project through Regional Collaboration</p>	<p>[Waste Incineration Plant] Demonstration experiment of "methanation," which separates and captures carbon dioxide (CO2) from exhaust gases produced by waste incineration, and produces methane, a raw material for city gas. Joint demonstration with City of Yokohama, Tokyo Gas, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Group. *CCU - Carbon dioxide Capture, Utilization</p>
<p>Tour D Decarbonization Model through PPP</p>	<p>[PACIFICO Yokohama North] One of the largest MICE facility recycling all on-site waste and supplying waste-generated electricity to nearby areas, fostering a circular eco-system. [YUMESAKI GALLERY] A digital experience gallery provided by LG, designed as activity floor incorporating entertainment elements to enhance urban vibrancy, allowing visitors to engage through sound and light. [Yokohama Landmark Tower] Highest building in Yokohama that adopts renewable energy sources and promotes waste recycling and wastewater reuse.</p>
<p>Tour E Private Sector Contribution to Carbon Neutral Society</p>	<p>[YOKOHAMA SYMPHOSTAGE] A next-generation building with eco-friendly technologies, reducing energy use while ensuring a comfortable office environment. [Port Plus] Japan's first high-rise fire-resistant wooden building, serving as Obayashi Corporation's training center. It contributes to a decarbonized society and promotes sustainable development through expanded use of timber.</p>

Prior to the site visits, an orientation session was held at the Y-PORT Center Office GALERIO, which included an overview of each course. For participants of the Tour A, D, and E, it also covered the history of the Minato Mirai district and its decarbonization initiatives.



The 13th ASCC: Location of Site Visit Tour on Oct. 22



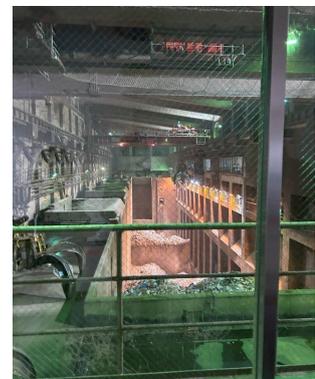
A. Promotion of Green Energy
Yokohama City Hall



B. Advanced Technology of Water Circulation
Hokubu Sludge Treatment Plant



C. CCU Pilot Project through Regional Collaboration
Waste Incineration Plant



D. Decarbonization Model through PPP
PACIFICO Yokohama North · YUMESAKI GALLERY · Landmark Tower



E. Private Sector Contribution to Carbon Neutral Society
YOKOHAMA SYMPHOSTAGE · Port Plus



Tour A Promotion of Green Energy

Yokohama City Hall

The delegation visited Yokohama City Hall, which was built with the concept of a Zero Energy Building (ZEB) to promote the highest level of energy-saving performance and local production and consumption of renewable energy within MM21 district. The previous city hall, built approximately 60 years ago, faced urgent issues, including aging facilities, insufficient office space, and the need to strengthen crisis management functions. The new city hall was designed to address these challenges while enhancing environmental performance.

Participants observed advanced environmental technologies, including double-skin curtain walls, natural ventilation windows, and eco-voids, alongside electrical systems such as fuel cells and solar power facilities that supply energy for the building. Additionally, a hybrid seismic isolation system, combining seismic isolation and motion control devices, was introduced as a key Business Continuity Plan (BCP) measure, ensuring operational stability during disasters.



Tour B Advanced Technology of Water Circulation

Hokubu Sludge Treatment Plant

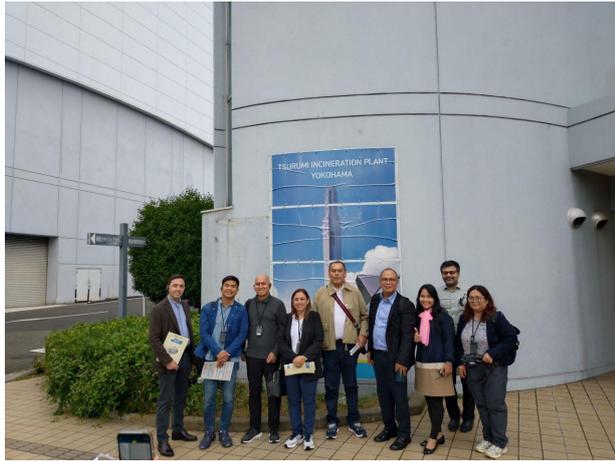
Participants visited the Hokubu Sludge Treatment Plant in Tsurumi Ward. At the center, they observed facilities contribute to the development of a circular society by processing sewage sludge from the water reclamation center and effectively utilizing the resulting digestion gas, incineration ash, and fuel materials. Participants learned about the sludge resource recovery process through both lectures and on-site facility tours. The visit concluded with a discussion addressing various questions from participants about the equipment and technologies used.



Tour C CCU Pilot Project through Regional Collaboration

Waste Incineration Plant

A demonstration project for "methanation," which captures CO2 from waste incineration flue gases to produce methane for city gas, has introduced. This project is being carried out as a joint demonstration under regional collaboration between the City of Yokohama, Tokyo Gas, and the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Group. After receiving detailed explanations from representatives of each organization, participants toured the facility. Participants showed strong interest, raising questions about food waste incineration challenges and implementation costs.



Tour D Decarbonization Model through PPP

This tour aimed to showcase the development of Minato Mirai 21 and its concept-driven urban planning. It included visits to PACIFICO Yokohama North, YUMESAKI GALLERY, and Yokohama Landmark Tower, where participants learned decarbonization efforts through public-private collaboration via site tours and lectures.

PACIFICO Yokohama North

Participants learned about the on-site waste recycling system. At PACIFICO Yokohama North, electricity generated from waste is supplied to neighboring areas, fostering a circular eco-system.



YUMESAKI GALLERY

Participants visited the YUMESAKI GALLERY inside the LG Yokohama Innovation Center, a common space connected to the sidewalk that contributes to creating a vibrant urban atmosphere. The tour included exploring this interactive facility as activity floor designed to enhance community engagement.



Yokohama Landmark Tower

An explanation about the history of the Minato Mirai 21 district and Yokohama Port, as well as recent developments in the area was provided. The tour concluded with a panoramic view of the Minato Mirai 21 district from the observation deck, summarizing the day's learning experience.





Tour E Private Sector Contribution to Carbon Neutral Society

The tour highlighted private-sector contributions to decarbonization in the Minato Mirai 21 district, a "Decarbonization Leading Area." Participants visited YOKOHAMA SYMPHOSTAGE and Port Plus, featuring advanced mixed-use commercial facility and Japan's first high-rise fire-resistant wooden building.

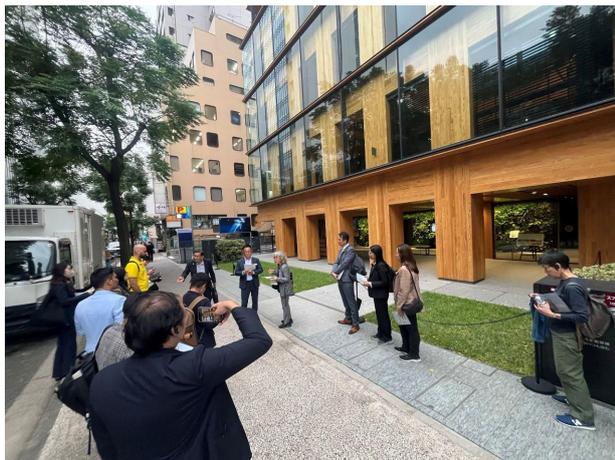
YOKOHAMA SYMPHOSTAGE

This next-generation mixed-use building aims to create a comfortable office environment through advanced green technologies and user-focused facility planning. Participants learned about its architectural design and technologies that reduce energy consumption while ensuring a comfortable workspace.



Port Plus

Port Plus, OBAYASHI CORPORATION's training facility, is Japan's first high-rise fire-resistant wooden building. Explanation of its practical efforts to contribute to a decarbonized society through timber utilization and to promote sustainability by expanding the use of timber was provided. After the lecture, participants toured the building interior.



Column:

City-to-City Cooperation Promoted by the Y-PORT project

The City of Yokohama has been implementing the "International Technical Cooperation through Yokohama Partnership of Resources and Technologies (Y-PORT) Program" in order to utilize its experiences in urban development and technologies and know-how of private sector to help cities in emerging economies to solve their urban issues and also Yokohama companies to expand their businesses overseas. This article features the progress of city-to-city collaboration with Bangkok in Thailand and the training program for officials from Indonesia.

City-to-City Collaboration with Bangkok

Since signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on technical cooperation with Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) in 2013, the City of Yokohama has provided technical cooperation, including support for the formulation of the BMA Climate Change Master Plan. In recent years, this collaboration has been strengthened under the Ministry of the Environment's "City-to-City Collaboration Programme for Zero-Carbon Society," in partnership with the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC) and the Yokohama Urban Solution Alliance (YUSA).

In June 2024, the City-to-City Cooperation Workshop towards Decarbonization between the City of Yokohama and BMA was held, bringing together business sectors from both countries. The workshop introduced Yokohama's decarbonization efforts and included the announcement of Bangkok's Energy Action Plan, formulated with support from Yokohama. This plan provides a framework and guidelines for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Bangkok's energy and transportation sectors, while encouraging public-private collaboration. In the future, it is expected that private sector technologies will be introduced to help achieve the plan's decarbonization goals.

A business matching event was conducted as part of the workshop, with participation from 12 companies from Japan and Thailand. Notably, Macnica Inc. (Yokohama) and Sena Development PLC (Thailand) announced Thailand's first perovskite solar power demonstration project. This collaboration was facilitated through the city-to-city partnership between Yokohama and Bangkok, showcasing how their relationship fosters business opportunities.



Furthermore, in September, a business matching event was held in cooperation with YUSA and Glocal Solutions Japan to facilitate partnerships between Japanese and Thai companies in the fields of wastewater treatment, decarbonization, and waste management. Unlike standard business events, this program focused on carefully selecting Thai companies that matched the characteristics and interests of participating Japanese firms. As a result, all five participating Japanese companies successfully proceeded to individual business negotiations.

These sustained city-to-city cooperation efforts were recognized at COP29 in November, where Yokohama and Bangkok co-presented at the Japan Pavilion during the Ministry of the Environment's "Clean City Partnership Program Seminar." This partnership continues to contribute to the expansion of decarbonization initiatives across Asian cities.





Hosting Indonesian Government Trainees in Yokohama



Indonesia is currently advancing its capital relocation project from Jakarta to Nusantara, with Balikpapan positioned as a key hub in the new capital region. The city is expected to grow as a logistics center, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) hub, and a commercial and business district. Recognizing its strategic role, the Indonesian government has prioritized urban planning efforts in the greater capital region, with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) also offering technical cooperation on infrastructure development and urban planning.

In December 2022, the Head of Indonesia's National Development Planning Agency visited Yokohama and expressed strong interest in the city's urban development experience, particularly in the Minato Mirai 21 district. This interest was further emphasized at the 12th Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC) in 2023, where senior officials from the agency and the Mayor of Balikpapan met with the Mayor of Yokohama to discuss the possibility of a training program in Yokohama. Following JICA-facilitated discussions, it was decided that Yokohama would host Indonesian government officials for capacity-building training.

The training program, conducted between October 15 and December 6, 2024, welcomed four Indonesian government officials to Yokohama. Over a two-month period, the trainees participated in lectures, site visits, and discussions with Yokohama City officials and urban planning experts, gaining insights into urban development, environmental policies, transportation planning, and smart city strategies. Additionally, they engaged with local businesses to explore potential applications of Yokohama's cutting-edge urban solutions in Indonesia.

At the final presentation session, each trainee selected a topic relevant to their expertise and presented policy recommendations based on their learnings in Yokohama. These proposals covered energy management for sustainable cities, advanced wastewater treatment, and smart mobility implementation—all of which are expected to contribute to Balikpapan's upcoming urban development plans. Going forward, Yokohama aims to continue hosting this training program while also supporting the implementation of Indonesia's "Tri-Cities Initiative" for the new capital region and create business opportunities for Yokohama-based companies in Indonesia.





Contribution: Feedback from the Trainees



Directorate of Regional II Officer, Ministry of National Development Planning

“Balikpapan’s growing economy and development needs provide new opportunities with Japanese companies based in Yokohama in areas such as smart city technologies and infrastructure. I look forward to seeing the cooperation between the two cities develop into concrete projects in the future.”



Subdistrict of Balikpapan Kota Officer, City of Balikpapan

“This program has been extremely beneficial for Balikpapan City, which supports Indonesia’s new capital, Nusantara. During the program, I had the opportunity to participate in the activities of ASCC, CityNet, and the World Bank, allowing us to build cooperative networks with other countries and conduct site visits to multiple locations. Through on-the-job training, I realized how the City of Yokohama has developed comprehensive plans and maintained a firm commitment to their implementation, achieving a comfortable and attractive urban environment.”



Regional of Development Planning Research Agency Officer, City of Balikpapan

“This program is excellent. It gives me a new perspective on designing an inclusive urban planning. I learn about the importance of planning cities that requires coordination among stakeholders in the city including government agencies, private companies, residents and positions local communities as the driving force of development. It emphasizes the significance of empowering communities as active agents of development, rather than merely treating them as targets. Moreover, I learn how to build a resilient city by implementing smart features to improve the quality of life of its citizen and to design a city so that it can attract investors and tourists to come. I hope this program will continue in the future.”



Department of Public Works Officer, City of Balikpapan

“As an outcome of this training program, the City of Balikpapan and the National Development Planning Agency can provide specific examples to Balikpapan and other Indonesian cities on how Yokohama has addressed urban issues currently faced by Indonesia. Furthermore, I hope that fostering good international relations with Indonesia also bring benefits to the City of Yokohama.”



Outcome at a glance

approx.

2,200

people

Transmission



Approximately 2,200 participants from 46 countries and regions attended the 13th Asia Smart City Conference in person (total for 3 days)

1,070

people

Exchange



Received 1,070 visitors from 45 organizations

11

times

Creation



11 overseas infrastructure development seminars for local companies

Access the QR code for the cases of international cooperation projects by companies in Yokohama





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