

Crisis Management Conference 2015 Conclusion

The Network for Crisis Management hosted the Crisis Management Conference 2015 with the aim of gathering and sharing relevant expertise among participating cities.

This year's conference, hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, was held on October 13, 2015 with Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, London, Manila, New South Wales, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, and Tokyo attending.

Here, we provide a conclusion of the conference.

1. Since its launch in 2003, the Network for Crisis Management has been operated by member cities of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC21). However, with the suspension of ANMC21 activities in 2014, it was decided that the project would be continued under a new framework starting in April 2015 through the agreement of the member cities. In addition to the original members of the network, Beijing, London and New South Wales also participated in this year's conference.
2. In recent years, along with global climate change, natural disasters, including storm and flood damage and earthquakes, are becoming more extreme. Although Asia's major cities continue to achieve remarkable growth, they also face a range of risks.
Furthermore, risks such as large-scale accidents and terrorism are universal challenges also shared by areas outside of Asia. As such, we must strengthen the sharing of information between cities around the world.
3. At this conference, discussions were held on the theme "Comprehensive measures to minimize damage caused by disasters: Protecting the lives and property of all." Presentations were made by each city on the great importance of learning from past experiences and compiling a comprehensive and specific disaster management plan. Presentations also stated the importance of uniformly relaying knowledge and information to a city's diverse population of residents, including

children, senior citizens, and foreign nationals, and implementing programs that encourage the participation of residents. Moreover, presentations stating the importance of not only government programs, but also of residents taking the initiative to enhance awareness and prepare for disasters were made, and information and opinions were exchanged on specific methods of spreading awareness.

4. We cannot eliminate all of the different risks that surround us, and, especially, we cannot stop the occurrence of natural disasters. However, by anticipating unavoidable dangers and making thorough preparations from every angle, we will continue efforts to protect citizens and keep damage to a minimum. To this end, we confirmed our intention to work to deepen mutual cooperation, including the sharing of information and cultivation of human resources, and enhance each city's crisis management system, under the framework of the Network for Crisis Management.
5. The network decided that the next Crisis Management Conference will be held in 2016 at an appropriate time in Singapore.

October 13, 2015
Tokyo, Japan