



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

c/o Promotion Committee for Healthy Cities,
Kanda-surugadai, 2-1-19-1112, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan
E-mail: alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp; FAX: +81 3 5577 6780

PRESS RELEASE

Alliance for Healthy Cities awarded 16 cities, four organizations and 1 expert for their efforts in healthy cities movement

Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Korea – October 28, 2010 --- The Alliance for Healthy Cities has worked with its member cities and organizations to advocate “Healthy Cities” approach and has extended projects and programs for planning, implementations and evaluation for the improvement of health and quality of life of the people in the cities.

AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities recognizes diversity of practices of Healthy Cities, progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation, and pioneers’ work in Healthy Cities.

On October 28, 2010, during the 4th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, hosted by Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, the Chairman of the Award Committee of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, Professor Albert Lee, from Chinese University of Hong Kong, announced the award winners under the three categories.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities

There are many creative developments and good practices by Healthy Cities worldwide and this award recognizes creative developments in Healthy Cities arising from diverse socio-cultural, environments and development backgrounds. The following points were evaluated for selection of awardees: (1) Relevance to the city’s needs; (2) Originality and innovation; (3) Influence to other cities; and (4) Support by evidence. This year, 11 cities and organizations received this award.

Having held the 2008 Ichikawa conference under the theme of “Strengthening Health Security in Cities”, this year the AFHC gave the award to a city reported outstanding work on health security.

The awardee of ***Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Health Security*** was: Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul, for their work to develop a master plan for health protection against climate change.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities - Partnership Development was presented to cities which developed partnerships for, in and with Healthy Cities activities and programmes. There are three outstanding award awardees: Health Promotion Board, Singapore, for its successes with partnerships; Sai Kung District, Hong Kong SAR, for extending the breadth and depth of intersectoral partnership through a district-wide holistic health promotion campaign; and Gangnam-gu, Seoul, for developing a partnerships to create a walking-friendly Eounju Street.

There are also six merit award awardees: Beitou Health Promotion Association - NGO, for their creation of a breast-feeding friendly community in Beitou District; Dong-gu, Gwangju, for their creation of new emergency care system with emphasis of partnership; Kowloon City District, Hong Kong SAR, for their partnership development through Building Healthy Kowloon City Association; Logan City Council, for Logan Beaudesert Health Coalition; Miaoli Healthy City Association – NGO, for their efforts to promote eating more fruits and vegetables and making people healthy through partnership with companies selling foods; and Taicang City, Jiangsu Province, for their joint efforts to improve the health level of children of migrant workers.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Evaluation was given to cities for outstanding work in evaluation of Healthy Cities programmes. There are two awardees, this year: Wonju City, for evaluation of “Wonju Healthy City Project: the phase 1 Healthy City Project (2006-2010)”; and Honourable Mayor Koji Taniguchi from City of Owariasahi, for evaluation of “Owariasahi City as a Healthy City”.

Awards for Progress of Healthy Cities

The approach of “Healthy City Programme’ (HCP) is based on philosophy with assumption in enhancement in health through improvements in certain social, cultural and economic conditions with changes in human attitudes; initiatives in improvement of personal and environmental health; and health being regarded as integral part of development in the community. The Ottawa Charter for Health provided the strategic framework defining health promotion as “the process of enabling people to take control over, and to improve their health”. Therefore a Healthy City is not necessary the one that has achieved a particular level of health but is conscious of health and is striving to *improve* it. HCP and healthy setting literature states that when such long term development projects are evaluated during the first few years, the focus should be on process rather than outcomes because improvement in health status are only likely to change in longer term. One of the following awards was given with recognition of the city’s progress on their reports. This year, the progress award was given to 8 cities that showed the evidence of progresses.

Award for Healthy City with good infrastructure was presented to five cities from Republic of Korea: Dobong-gu, Seoul; Seodaemun-gu, Seoul; Yangpyeong-gun; Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul; and Yeongi County.

Award for Healthy City with strong action was presented to three cities: Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea; Jinju City, Republic of Korea; and City of Owariasahi, Japan.

Award for Pioneers in Healthy Cities

Healthy Cities continuously need pioneering spirits and efforts to make things happen in the real world. This award recognizes individuals/groups that have more than 10 years experience directly related to Healthy Cities and have contributed to international developments of Healthy Cities. This year, this award was honorably presented to four groups and one expert for their contributions on expanding healthy cities world-wide.

Awardees were:

Kwai Tsing Safe Community and Healthy City Association, which made long-term efforts in healthy setting approaches, evidence-based approaches with innovation, and inter-sectoral collaborations in community health programmes.

Professor Shiu Hung Lee, Emeritus Professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who started the first Healthy City of Hong Kong in 1997 on the basis of international academic exchanges and research work. Professor SH Lee supported districts in Hong Kong to start up Healthy Cities projects and had been continuously be a mentor to the people committed to Healthy Cities in Hong Kong and beyond.

City of Suzhou, for its 12-year commitment in developing Healthy Cities in Suzhou, as well as disseminating Healthy Cities information to cities in China by producing Chinese translated versions of guidelines and textbooks. The city has tested healthy settings approach in the context of Suzhou City. The city hosted the second General Assembly of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, in a beautiful city of Suzhou, in 2006. This conference was the first conference to have Mayors Summit of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, where leaders of cities gathered at once. The first experience to host Mayors Summit has been continuously applied in the following conferences

Finally but not least, the joint work of Ichikawa City and Wonju City was specially commended. Both cities had worked on Healthy Cities for 10 years, initiating long-term mutual visiting programs, which enabled them to learn from practical examples mutually. This includes mayors' mutual visits, exchange of officers, and also exchanges of citizens such as children of little leagues and seniors from community walking groups. Both cities showed strong leadership in promoting Healthy Cities in respective countries.

The AFHC Award Ceremony was held at Grand Intercontinental Hotel, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, during the 4th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. More than 500 participants from 14 countries from all over the world and WHO professionals celebrated awardees.

###

For further information please contact to:
Secretariat of the Alliance for Healthy Cities
c/o Promotion Committee for Healthy Cities,
Kanda-surugadai, 2-1-19-1112, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan
E-mail: alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp; FAX: +81 3 5577 6780