



WHO gives Healthy Cities awards to eight outstanding cities in Asia-Pacific

Suzhou, China, 28 October 2006—The World Health Organization today commended eight cities in the Western Pacific Region for outstanding achievements and good practices in Healthy Cities projects at the Second General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities.

Dr Richard Nesbit, WHO acting Regional Director for the Western Pacific, led the awards ceremony. Over 400 delegates representing 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific participated in the event from 28 to 30 October.

The Healthy Cities approach was introduced almost two decades ago in the Western Pacific Region as a means of improving the health of urban populations. Since then more than 100 cities have adopted the approach and have engaged communities, stakeholders and partners in multisectoral activities to address health problems.

The Healthy Cities Awards 2006 aim to give recognition to cities that have excelled in their endeavours and allow them to share experiences.

The awards were given in three categories:

- * Good practice awards – for innovative approaches taken to address selected health issues.
- * Best proposal awards – with seed money for new initiatives to solve selected health problems.
- * Regional Director's awards for Outstanding Healthy City – an honorary recognition presented to a city that has a long-track record in sustained improvement of the overall quality of life of its citizens using the Healthy Cities approach.

The Good Practice Awards went to the following:

- * Wonju City, Republic of Korea — Financing of health promotion activities.
- * Kunshan, Jiangsu, China — Gender-based violence.
- * Jeju City, Republic of Korea — Recognition of best practices in breastfeeding promotion and protection at the work site.
- * Marikina City, Philippines — Making our cities safer through health emergency preparedness and response planning.
- * Kunshan, Jiangsu, China — Improving the quality of care through mother-friendly hospital initiative.

The Best Proposal awards went to the following:

- * Ichikawa City, Japan — Local action for social determinants of health in urban settings for economics of urban settings and slums (US\$10 000).
- * Tagaytay City, Philippines — Local action for social determinants of health in urban settings for shelter and housing (US\$10 000).
- * Marikina City, Philippines — Emergency preparedness planning (US\$ 5000) for a feasible and practical project that would contribute to the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response of the city.

The Regional Director's awards went to:

- * Miyakojima City, Japan — Since 1994, Miyakojima City has been implementing the Healthy Cities programme, including such programmes as encouraging physical activities by providing healthy walking paths to organizing an international triathlon, promoting healthy dietary habits and preserving coral reef and water quality.
- * Noarlunga, Australia — Noarlunga has likewise been implementing Healthy Cities projects since 1987, including tackling major health issues linked to unemployment, developing multicultural activities, and addressing water quality and other environmental health issues.

For more information, please contact Dr Hisashi Ogawa, WHO Regional Adviser in Healthy Settings and Environment, at (63 2) 528 9886, e-mail: ogawah@wpro.who.int or Dr Karen Heckert, WHO Regional Adviser in Health Promotions, at (63 2) 528 9854, e-mail: heckertk@wpro.who.int.