

## **World Health Organization Western Pacific Region Healthy City Recognition 2012**

### **Call for Applications for Best Practice**

#### **Public Sanitary Convenience**



#### **Background**

The provision of public toilets in transportation terminals, parks and recreational areas, marketplaces and other public locations is not only a convenience to the itinerant public but also a service that can promote a cleaner and more healthful urban environment. WHO considers it to be a basic human right that individuals have access to improved sanitation facilities at the household level. But inevitably people also need access to sanitary conveniences when they travel, work, study, play, shop and conduct other activities away from home.

Lack of public sanitary conveniences results in discomfort for many individuals and may to some extent discourage some visitors and residents alike from long periods of activity outside the home or, in the case of visitors, outside the hotel. Moreover, lack of public sanitary conveniences may result in some degree of fouling of public places, intrusion on patrons' toilets in commercial establishments by non-patrons, or both.

The provision of public toilets poses many challenges to city governments however, not least of which is the need to ensure that facilities are safe to use and to ensure security from crime and acts of violence. Closely related to this is the need to ensure that facilities are not utilized for unintended purposes such as temporary sheltering or illegal

economic activities. A key challenge from the health perspective is to ensure that public sanitary conveniences are well maintained in order to prevent toilets, sinks etc. from being out of service and to ensure hygienic conditions of the facilities and environs at all times. Unless facility operations are subsidized from other sources, this may necessitate user fees – a policy that has to be balanced with the principle of equitable access to services.

A further challenge with regard to equity is to ensure that facilities are accessible to and suitable for use by disabled, handicapped and injured persons, children and the elderly.

### **Recognition of Best Practice**

Recognition is given for demonstration of best practices in improving public sanitary conveniences in cities.

### **Eligible applicants**

Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) members that have sustained a programme of public sanitary conveniences for a minimum of 5 years

### **Call for application content**

The proposal must include the following headings

- 1) Title page
- 2) Background and scope (250 words)
- 3) Objectives
- 4) Methodology (Maximum 3 pages)
  - a. Team members
  - b. Partners (description of partnership strategy, in specific through the creation of a steering committee with active participation of civil society)
  - c. Setting
  - d. Beneficiaries
  - e. Equity: Approaches to promote equity, in specific by focusing on vulnerable groups, in specific:
    - i. Equity of access and usage by diverse user groups.
  - f. Process: Approach and activities (including a time line of activities)
    - i. Innovative sanitary inspections of toilets
    - ii. Measures implemented to ensure safety and security of users
    - iii. Measures to ensure reliable provision of soap, safe running water and hand drying facilities.

- iv. Measures to ensure disposal of liquid and solid waste from public sanitary conveniences in environmentally sound manner and in compliance with national and local legal requirements.
- g. Community participation
- 5) Monitoring the process and evaluating the project outcome
  - a. Evidence of increasing usage by the public over time.
  - b. Evidence of effective facilities, maintenance programme, and prevention of malfunctioning and unhygienic facilities.
- 6) Measures for sustainability
- 7) Budget
- 8) Additional (Describe in 250 words as to why this should be considered for the 'best practice' recognition.)

The application will be evaluated based on the description of each of the items above.

### **Format**

Please download the template from the web site to submit your application. Please ensure that the key points in previous section are addressed in the application.

### **Materials to be submitted**

In addition to the filled out application template, high resolution colored photographs showing the city's public sanitary conveniences should be submitted to support the application.

### **Best Practice Selection Process**

Applications will be evaluated according to the key elements listed in the template for Best Practices. A plaque of recognition will be awarded to applicants who successfully demonstrate best practice in public sanitary conveniences.

Awardees will be announced at the Alliance for Healthy Cities 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference 24 – 27 October 2012 in Brisbane, Australia.

### **Deadline for submission**

1 August 2012

**Please submit the application and all supporting documents to**

Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion  
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific  
P.O. Box 2932, United Nations Avenue  
1000 Manila, Philippines  
Tel: +63(2) 528-8001  
E-mail: [nhp@wpro.who.int](mailto:nhp@wpro.who.int)

**For technical information, please contact**

Environmental Health  
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific  
P.O. Box 2932, United Nations Avenue  
1000 Manila, Philippines  
Tel: +63(2) 528-8001  
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