



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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Report

Alliance for Healthy Cities gives awards to 26 cities and organizations for their efforts in the Healthy Cities movement

Seoul, Korea – September 25, 2024 --- The Alliance for Healthy Cities has worked with its member cities and organizations to advocate the “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 cities.

AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities recognize the diversity of practices of Healthy Cities, the progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation, and “pioneers” work in Healthy Cities.

On September 25, 2024, during the 10th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, hosted by Seoul Metropolitan Government, Korea, Professor Keiko Nakamura (from Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Head of Secretariat of the Alliance for Healthy Cities) announced the award winners in three categories: Progress, Creative Developments and Pioneering Work.

Awards for Progress of Healthy Cities

The approach of “Healthy City Programme’ (HCP) is based on philosophy with assumption that enhancement in health occurs (1) through improvements in certain social, cultural and economic conditions with changes in human attitudes; (2) through initiatives in improvement of personal and environmental health; and (3) when health is regarded as an 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 necessarily 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 is only likely to change in the longer term. The following awards were given with recognition of the city’s progress on their reports. This year, progress awards were given to 9 cities.

Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- Healthy City with Good Infrastructure is presented to cities that have demonstrated initiatives in using multiple settings to promote population health with strategic planning. Three cities were recognized: Goyang City, Korea; Jinju City, Korea; and Nowon-gu, Seoul, Korea.

Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- Healthy City with Good Dynamic is presented to cities that successfully demonstrated policies that placed the infrastructure of a Healthy City to push the Healthy City movement forward. This time, the award was given to four cities: Bucheon City, Korea; Dong-gu Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea; Obu City, Japan; and Suzhou City, China.

Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- Healthy City with Strong Action is presented to cities that have active participation from professional groups such as academic and private sectors for advanced development of a Healthy City, aiming to become an integral part of city planning and development. The award was given to Gangdong-gu, Seoul, Korea.

Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- Healthy City with Expert is given to cities or those leading the cities to become a Healthy City and had already received an “AFHC Award for Healthy City with Outstanding Performance” or “AFHC Award for Healthy City with Strong Action” when they show further continuing progress with good evidence in that city plus contribution to promote Healthy Cities in the region and beyond. This year, this award was given to Owariasahi City, Japan.

Awards 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 that arise from diverse socio-cultural, environments and development backgrounds. The following points were evaluated for selection of awardees: (1) Increasing Resilience to Health Emergencies in Cities; (2) Data-driven Planning for Healthy Cities; (3) eHealth and mHealth in Cities; (4) Healthy Cities in Blue and Green Zones; (5) Action Plan Addressing Planetary Health in Cities; and (6) SDGs in Healthy Cities. This year, 20 cities and organizations received this award in those six areas.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Increasing Resilience to Health Emergencies in Cities was given to cities for increasing resilience to health emergencies by developing healthcare interventions and innovative economic, social, environmental, and political interventions to cope with health emergencies. Here, health emergencies are not limited to infectious disease outbreaks but also include other natural and man-made emergencies.

There are two awardees this year: Taicang City, China for “A Multi-Point Infectious Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System Based on Big Data Analysis Technology in Taicang”; and Alliance for Taitung County Healthy City Promotion for “Smart Cloud-Based Emergency Resource Integration Platform - 5G Smart Mobile Emergency Room System”.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Data-driven Planning for Healthy Cities was given to cities that showed creative developments in data-driven urban planning and designs. There are three awardees: Bucheon City, Korea for “Establishing a Basic Plan for a Healthy City through the Urban Health Profile of Bucheon City”; Siheung City, Korea for “Creation of Data-Driven City and Healthy City with Healthy Citizens”; and Chiayi City Healthy City Promotion Association for their “Safe and Sustainable Digitalized Crime Prevention Strategies”.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – eHealth and mHealth in Cities

was given for outstanding work in utilising eHealth/mHealth to encompass improvement of healthcare services.

This award was won by five cities and organizations: Gangdong-gu, Seoul, Korea for “Next-generation digital healthcare system’ for personalized chronic disease preventive management anytime and anywhere”; New Taipei Healthy City Promotion Association for “The ‘Fit For Age’ app creates a smart exercise network, making a sports ground everywhere!”; Chungju City, Korea for the m-Health initiative “Paving the Way for Wellness”; Yunlin County, Zinnia Hope Family Association for the “A Smart Healthy Happy Living City”; and Zhangjiagang City, China for the “Innovative Development of Intelligent Health Medical Treatment Models”.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Healthy Cities in Blue and Green Zones was given to cities developing blue and green zones integral to promotion of health and well-being of citizens as well as a nurturing ecosystem. There are three awardees this year. Owariasahi City, Japan for collaborating with Citizens, and businesses to develop a city utilizing green space and waterfront; Tainan Healthy City Association for developing the Chang-Sheng Park; and Kunshan City for advocating healthy urban blue-green belts.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Action Plan Addressing Planetary Health in Cities was given to cities that showed excellent collaboration among partners, emphasis on ecosystem health, and the strengthening of community activities.

There are four award-winners: Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul, Korea for “There is only one Earth! The climate is in crisis! Let’s act together!”; Songpa District, Seoul, Korea for developing a carbon-neutral city; Changwon City, Korea for creating a carbon-neutral village; and Luzhou Healthy City Promotion Association for establishing sustainable governance of rivers in New Taipei City.

Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – SDGs in Healthy Cities was given to cities for advancing the efforts towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. This award was won by three organizations: Shilin Health Promotion Association for “The 2030 Roadmap for a Sustainable and Healthy City”; Song Shan Health Promotion Association for “Create a sustainable and age-friendly Songshan in Taipei city”; and Zhongshan Health Promotion Association for its “5-strategies-driven cross-domain partnership sustains healthy life in Zhongshan District”.

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, Gangdong-gu, Seoul received an award for its contributions on expanding Healthy Cities worldwide.

Gangdong-gu, Seoul, has been involved in Healthy Cities for 16 years, beginning with a health profile assessment and the development of future-oriented policies. The city has collaborated with WHO through various programs, including the reception of study visits from Vietnam, Philippines, and Cambodia; technical cooperation for Urban HEART training; the launch of the Healthy City Toolkit; and management of noncommunicable disease and

mental health in emergencies to advance equity in health in cities. The city took the chairmanship of Korea Healthy Cities Partnership (KHCP), the Korea Chapter of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, in 2015, promoting mayoral engagement in Healthy Cities initiatives both domestically and internationally. Since 2016, Gangdong-gu has served on the AFHC Steering Committee, becoming Chair in 2018. Despite pandemic challenges, Gangdong-gu, under the leadership of Honorable Mayor Soohye Lee, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the 10th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. Mayor Lee's leadership has been instrumental in expanding Healthy Cities initiatives globally, across various socioeconomic contexts.

The AFHC Award Ceremony was held at DDP Art Hall, Seoul, Korea, during the 10th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. More than 1,000 delegates from all over the world along with WHO professionals honored the awardees.

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