



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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Alliance for Healthy Cities gives awards to 35 cities and organizations for their efforts in the Healthy Cities movement

China Hong Kong Chapter Online (Webinar) – November 5, 2021 --- 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 the cities.

AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities recognize the diversity of practices of Healthy Cities and the progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation.

On November 5, 2021, during the 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, hosted by China Hong Kong Chapter, Professor Albert Lee (Director of Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Chair of the AFHC Award Committee) and Professor Keiko Nakamura (Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Head of Secretariat of the Alliance for Healthy Cities) announced the award winners in two categories: Progress and Creative Developments.

Awards for Progress of Healthy Cities

To achieve outstanding performance, a city needs to establish advanced models of different settings with a mechanism in place to complement different settings. Healthy City then becomes an integral part of city planning and development across different departments and a key feature of a city leader’s manifesto. The city health profile contains comprehensive information including social determinants of health. Health promotion programmes are implemented and integrated into everyday life upholding cultural and social diversities. The city has earmarked resources allocated for research up to the international level with inputs from local and international experts with specific outcomes indicators. The following awards were given in recognition of the cities’ progress on their reports. This year, progress awards were given to seven cities.

Award for 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 received the award: Obu City, Japan; Yamato City, Japan; and Daejeon Metropolitan City, Korea.

Award for Healthy City with Good Dynamic is presented to cities that successfully demonstrated policies are placed in the infrastructure of Healthy City to push the Healthy City movement forward. This time, the award was given to Bucheon City, Korea.

Award for 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 Healthy City, with the aim to become an integral part of city planning and development. Three cities received the award: Owariasahi City, Japan; Gangdong-gu, Seoul, Korea; and Wonju City, Korea.

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) Relevance to the city's needs; (2) Originality and innovation; (3) Influence to other cities; and (4) Support by evidence. This year, we have two categories of award: the Merit Award for those cities with creative development meeting the needs of their respective cities and a high level of originality and innovation that are highly relevant to the Charter of the Alliance for Healthy Cities and serve as good model for other cities. The other is the Distinction Award for those cities with extraordinary innovation and a high degree of novelty that serve as examples for high-level Healthy City development. Twenty eight cities and organizations received this award in seven areas.

Creative City Responses Throughout COVID-19 was given for outstanding work of creative developments in cities for different phases of the pandemic ranging from emergency response to designing new urban lifestyles to use of urban space. There are two awardees for Merit and two awardees for Distinction this year.

The Merit Award went to:

- Gangbuk-gu, Korea for "A safe and environmentally friendly COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Management System based on ICT, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul city, Korea"
- Nonsan City, Korea for "A case of overcoming COVID-19 in the local community using digital technology".

The Distinction Award went:

- Wonju City, Korea for "Social Prescribing Pilot Project During the COVID-19 Pandemic, in Wonju in Korea".
The city continued its social prescribing program even with COVID-19, by well-designed approaches which meet the specific needs under the pandemic.
- Zhongshan Health Promotion Association for "SURE! Epidemic Prevention: Response from Community Public Health ~SURE Strategy, Zero COVID Case – Trajectory of Community Anti-epidemic in Taipei Zhongshan District Health Service Center~"
This is a good example of cross departmental co-operation and epidemiological investigation with advanced technological support.

Creative Development in Risk Communication Under COVID-19 was given to cities that showed creative developments in risk communications, community engagement, and risk governance during pandemics. The two awardees for Merit were:

- Owariasahi City for "Risk Communication Strategies Applied to COVID-19 Vaccination"
- Gangdong-gu for "Moving in the classroom, Healthy School' of Gangdong-gu, a project for child obesity prevention based on communication and cooperation"

Creative Data-driven Planning for Healthy Cities Data-driven approaches have been applied to urban planning and design in cities worldwide. Because urban environments have a significant impact on their populations' physical and mental health, large amounts of data have been used to evaluate the quality of and access to health services in cities. This award was given to cities that showed creative developments in data-driven planning and experiences. The Merit Award was won by two cities:

- Zhangjiagang City, China for "Convenient and Open Access to Zhangjiagang Health Information Platform and Electronic Health Records"
- Wonju City, Korea for "Evaluation of Phase 2 of 10-Year Healthy City Wonju Project (2011-2020) and Establishment of Phase 3 Plan (2021-2025)"

Creative Developments in eHealth and mHealth was given for outstanding work in using eHealth and mHealth encompassing improvement of a vast spectrum of healthcare services, ranging from prevention, monitoring and surveillance, health service delivery, knowledge exchange, and management of health and lifestyle. There are six awardees for Merit this year:

- Dongtai City, China for "Promoting "general health" with "specific point collection"
- Kwai Tsing District, Hong Kong SAR, China for "An Integrated Approach in Enhancing Age at home During the Pandemic Through the Use of Mobile Healthcare and Tele Medicine Service"
- Zhangjiagang City, China for "The Innovation and Development of Internet Hospital in Zhangjiagang City"
- Gangdong-gu, Korea for "Convergence care model (visiting nurse service and telemedicine) for dementia patients who are at higher risks from coronavirus"
- Nowon-gu, Korea for "Effectiveness of visiting health care for the elderly using the internet-of-Things and smartphone applications (Project title: "AI-IoT based Elderly Health Care Services")"
- Taipei Healthy City Promotion Association for "Smart Taipei – Use of technology to combat COVID-19"

Green and Walkability in Cities was given to cities and organizations that showed plans for changing urban spaces into greener, walkable, disease-preventing, and health-promoting spaces. There were two awardees for Merit and three awardees for Distinction:

The Merit Award went to:

- Jongno-gu, Korea for "Walkable City with Natural Beauty"
- Siheung City, Korea for "Siheung, where walking makes people happy daily life is fully of healthy activities"

The Distinction Award went to:

- Owariasahi City, Japan for "Owariasahi, a comfortable city full of greenery and vitality"
Large scale land readjustment as city planning and development as a green and healthy city.
- Wonju City, Korea for "Walkable Riverside, Sustainable City Wonju!"
The project is meticulous in planning and implementation and promotes the ecology of the city with evaluation to guide further development.
- Tainan Healthy City Promotion Association for "Hopi-Baihe Friendly Bike Lane with special features of rice, orchid and lotus"
Concrete efforts and actions to promote cycling for health, tourism, and the promoting of a green environment through engaging different government departments, scholars and citizens.

Innovation in Food Distribution Under and Beyond COVID-19 was given to cities that responded by developing innovative food distribution systems under and beyond COVID-19. This year, the Distinction Award was given to Zhangjiagang City, China for “Strengthen the Supervision of Cold Chain for the Food and Build a Strong Defense Line for Food Safety”. The city adopted an innovative and advanced use of technology for food inspection, circulation, and distribution through a full cold-chain tracing system to mitigate and control COVID-19 transmission.

SDGs in Healthy Cities was given for outstanding work of Healthy Cities to use the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals to assess the framework and monitor the progress of a city’s Healthy City policy, plans, and programs. There were six awardees for the Merit and two awardees for the Distinction.

The Merit Award went to:

- Owariasahi City, Japan for “Creative efforts to raise awareness of SDGs and encourage individual actions by cooperating with different sectors”
- Gangdong-gu, Korea for “G-SDGs (Making Healthy City Gangdong, governed by the 7th mayor elected by popular vote, Sustainable for the Future Generation”
- Jongno-gu, Korea for “Doneui-dong Saetteul Village Project, The Initiative Project for the Vulnerable by the Safe and Sustainable City, Jongno”
- Chiayi City Healthy City Promotion Association for “Build a Visionary Chiayi of Low Carbon Homes for All Ages and All Generations”
- Tainan Healthy City Association for “Examining Tainan City’s Governance from the SDGs Indicators of Healthy City”
- Alliance for Taitung County Healthy City Promotion for “The Dust Suppression Program of Beinan River”

The Distinction Award went to:

- Tainan Healthy City Association for “Zhuxi River”
Urban development had a negative impact on the river, but bringing the once dead river back to life reaped benefits, not just pre-pandemic but even now.
- Taipei Healthy City Promotion Association for “Interpretation of Taipei Healthy City Transformation Toward Sustainable Development Goals”
It has a systematic approach to implement SDG goals by engaging a wider aspect of health comprehensively.

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