



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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PRESS RELEASE

Alliance for Healthy Cities gives awards to 21 cities/organizations and 1 expert for their efforts in the Healthy Cities movement

Brisbane, Australia – October 25, 2012 --- At the 5th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, an awards ceremony was held honoring members of the Alliance who have improved the health and quality of life of people living in cities. Awards were given in three categories: creative developments, progress, and pioneering work. The winners were announced by the chairman of the Alliance's award committee, Prof. Albert Lee of Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) works with its member cities and organizations to plan, implement and evaluate projects and programs that are guided by the "Healthy Cities" approach which improves health, quality of life and makes cities more livable.

The conference was hosted by Logan City, Griffith University, and the Australian Chapter of the AFHC.

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 that arise from diverse socio-cultural, environments and development backgrounds. After nearly a decade of the AFHC's existence, AFHC is now looking for a framework of evaluation of Healthy Cities that is explicit and replicable. This year, the Award Committee of AFHC called for reports in seven areas. Seventeen outstanding works were given the "AFHC 2012 Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities".

- 1. Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Evaluation** was given for outstanding work in evaluation of Healthy Cities programs. Pingtung Healthy City Association won for its "plan-do-check-act" (PDCA) cycle paradigms that have enabled Pingtung to assure that its program meets its goals for improvement. The evaluation framework covers a whole range of disciplines ranging from health management, community building, sports & leisure, environmental management, and education & culture that Pingtung has integrated into its "Healthy City Activity".
- 2. Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Healthy Settings and Non-communicable Diseases Control** was presented to cities that showed progress in prevention and control of non-communicable disease (NCD) in selected settings by involvement of multiple departments of local governments. There were four winners. Miaoli Healthy City Association was honored for its comprehensive program involving all sectors. The City of Owariasahi was recognized for its "Healthy Asahi 21 Plan". Tainan Healthy City Association won for constructing an active-living city and Yanggu County got a prize for its "Atopy-Free City" project.

3. **Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Health Equity** went to cities that achieved a certain level of health equity by addressing social determinants of health. There were six awardees. Busanjin-gu, Busan was honored for establishing a health community for vulnerable social groups. Hsinchu City Healthy City Promotion Association received its award for its health care plan for immigrants and underprivileged mothers. Huai'an municipality won for the construction achievements of its 15-minute-health-service-circle in Huai'an rural areas. Parañaque City got an award for its urban HEART project. Taicang City received its prize for a fair health service to psychotic patients and Zhangjiagang City earned a prize for its steps to allow disabled people to share equally the fruits of development.
4. **Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Ubiquitous City** was presented to cities that developed a system to utilize information technologies for betterment of health of the population. This award followed up a pledge made in Gangnam, Republic of Korea in October 2010 by AFHC members at their 4th Global Conference to achieve, for all citizens, the highest attainable accessibility to health information, activities and basic healthcare services. Gangnam and Gwangmyeong City both received awards: Gangnam, for its tele-health program with significant improvement in health; and Gwangmyeong City for strengthening the basis of a safe city connected with a “U-integrated” control center.
5. **Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Good Health Systems** was given to cities which developed good health systems in a local context by addressing one of the following: universal coverage; service delivery to meet people's needs and expectations; integrating health into all sectors; pursuit of policy dialogue; and increasing stakeholder participation. Gangdong-gu, Seoul and Zhangjiagang City were the awardees in this category: Gangdong-gu, Seoul, for its innovative approach to provide primary health care services for NCD prevention and control at the village level; and Zhangjiagang City, for its work on basic medical care and health services to everyone.
6. **Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Disaster Preparedness** was presented to cities which acted to strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery against natural disaster. Logan City Council received its award for its aged-care-disaster-management network. The City of Owariasahi earned one for its city-to-city partnership agreement for mutual support against large-scale disaster.

Awards for Progress of Healthy Cities

The approach of “Healthy City Program’ (HCP) is based on the philosophy that assumes that enhancement of 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 one that is conscious of health and is striving to improve it. This award is designated for cities that have once been recognized for a certain level of progress and have continued to work for further improvements. This year, previous winners of the Award for Healthy City with Strong Action, were re-assessed for progress and awards were given to seven cities.

Award for Healthy City with Good Infrastructure was won by two cities: Darkhan City; and Yangcheon-gu, Seoul.

Award for Healthy City with Good Dynamic was given to three cities: Hadong-gun; Yanggu County; and Gangdong-gu, Seoul.

Award for Healthy City with Strong Action was presented to two cities: Gangnam; and Owariasahi City.

Award for Pioneers in Healthy Cities

The Healthy Cities movement continuously needs pioneering spirits and efforts to make things happen in the real world. This award recognizes individuals/groups that have more than 10 years of experience directly related to Healthy Cities and have contributed to the international development of Healthy Cities. This year, two organizations and one individual received awards for their contributions on expanding Healthy Cities worldwide.

Awardees were:

Tagaytay City which has committed to the work of Healthy Cities since January 2000 due to the leadership of the Honorable Mayor Abraham Tolentino. Notable contributions of the city are the legislation of health-related ordinances and resolutions, the Lingap sa Barangay project, the “Taking Care for the Poor” project, and implementation of child-friendly programs. These programs have made Tagaytay City, a Healthy City. Tagaytay’s models are good, practical examples of involving communities.

Healthy City Kuching has 18 years of experience in continually creating initiatives that motivate people and communities to walk towards a Healthy City. The recent practical examples are the “Spring Cleaning Campaign”, a comprehensive program to lower the crime rate, and youth outreach activities to promote connectedness. The commitment of the Honourable DATO James Chan Khay Syn has further upgraded Healthy City Kuching. His high-level commitment to Healthy Cities provided strong advocacies not only within AFHC, but also for other cities and organizations working outside of Healthy City communities.

The Honourable Sandra McCarthy, Chair of the Australian Chapter of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, has merged efforts of a local government and communities during her 12 years served as Mayor of Kiama City Council, New South Wales. She has been involved in AFHC since its inaugural conference in Kuching, 2004 and has linked local initiatives with international collective efforts for Healthy Cities. In her capacity as the Chair of the Australian Chapter, she has encouraged more cities in her country to test Healthy Cities. She has been a mentor for cities inside and outside of Australia. She recently retired from her mayor and councillor position, but this is likely to be the start of her further commitment to Healthy Cities.

The AFHC Award Ceremony was held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia, during the 5th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. More than 400 participants from 24 countries from all over the world and WHO professionals honored the awardees.

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