



## **The Alliance for Healthy Cities**

c/o Promotion Committee for Healthy Cities,  
Kanda-surugadai, 2-1-19-1112, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan  
E-mail: [alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp](mailto:alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp); FAX: +81 3 5577 6780

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Report

## **Alliance for Healthy Cities gives awards to 18 cities and organizations for their efforts in the Healthy Cities movement**

**Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia – October 17, 2018** --- 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, the progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation, and “pioneers” work in Healthy Cities.

On October 17, 2018, during the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, hosted by Kuching Healthy City, Sarawak, Malaysia, 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 in enhancement in the 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 necessary 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 longer term. The following awards were given with recognition of the city’s progress on their reports. This year, progress awards were given to 8 cities.

***Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- Healthy City with Good Infrastructure*** is presented to cities that have demonstrate the initiatives in using multiple setting to promote population health with strategic planning. Three cities were awarded: Fukuroi City, Japan; Nonsan City, Korea; and Yangcheon-gu, Seoul, Korea.

***Award for Progress of Healthy Cities- 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 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 Healthy City, aiming to become an integral part of city planning and development. Four cities were awarded: Kwai Tsing District, Hong Kong SAR, China; Owariasahi City, Japan; City of Changwon, Korea; and Gangdong-gu, Seoul, 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, 21 cities and organizations received this award in four areas.

***Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Achieving SDGs through Healthy Cities Programs*** 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 city's Healthy City policy, plans, and programs. There are seven awardees this year: Fukuroi City, Japan, for "Community Development of Fukuroi City as Japan's Most Culturally Rich and Health Conscious City"; Hsinchu City Healthy City Promotion Association, for "Building a happy and safe city for the elderly through long-term care system"; Healthy Cities Illawarra, Australia, for "We're all in this together" – Pursuing the SDGs through localised action; Kaohsiung Healthy Harbor City Association, for "Livable Lohas in Kaohsiung City"; Owari-asahi City, Japan, for Activities and SDGs of Healthy City; Siheung City, Korea, for "The borderless workplace and living zone that are united through health (Construction of Healthcare System for Foreign Workers through Siheung Smart Hub)"; and Taoyuan Healthy Promotion Association, for "Land of a Thousand Ponds" – A Pond Park in Every District.

***Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Healthy settings and non-communicable disease control*** was given to cities that showed progress in prevention and control of non-communicable disease (NCD) in selected settings involving multiple departments of local governments. There are five outstanding award awardees: Beitou Health and Safety Promotion Association, for the mode of NCDs community services "Xinyi Neighborhood Health Day"; City of Changwon, Korea, for their self-evaluation of strong and healthy blood vessels; Kwai Tsing District, Hong Kong SAR, China, for the city of enhancement of community health care; Siheung City, Korea, for creating a healthy Misan in the fight against NCD with citizen activists; and Songpa District, Seoul, Korea, for their community health sheriff program.

***Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Good Health Systems towards Universal Health Coverage*** was given to cities which acted to strengthen health systems in their local contest towards universal health coverage and were focused on at least one of the followings: health financing for universal coverage; essential medicines and health products; health systems governance and policies; health workforce; health statistics and information systems; and service delivery and safety. This award was won by three cities and

organizations: Dongtai City, China, for “Internet Plus Smart Health Project Construction”; Shilin Health Promotion Association, for “Guarding Angel at a Distance – Prevention against Tuberculosis and Utilization of Mobile Technology”; and Siheung City, Korea, for the system that residents directly determine their health life at the community health center.

***Award for Creative Developments in Healthy Cities – Planning for Resilience and Emergency Preparedness*** was given for outstanding work in planning for resilience, emergency preparedness, response, or recovery at local level. There are six awardees this year. City of Changwon, for health-based strengthening of common response system against infectious diseases for “ISSF World Championship All Events Changwon 2018”; Fukuroi City, Japan, for community-initiated disaster prevention measures to achieve zero casualties; Paranaque City, Philippines, for developing the system R.I.D.E.R.S (Riders In Disasters and Emergency ResponSe); Tainan Healthy City Association, for developing management system for fire departments to sharing data and information; Alliance for Taitung County Healthy City Promotion Association, for preparation to emergencies triggered by climate change; and Health Promotion Association of Xizhi District, for how a city got rid of the threat of floods.

### **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, two experts received an award for contributions on expanding Healthy Cities world-wide.

**Ms Scarlett Pong Oi Lan**, from Sha Tin District Council, Hong Kong SAR, China has devoted herself to develop, disseminate and expand Healthy Cities programs in the last 10 years as the Vice Chairman of China Hong Kong Chapter of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, the Organizing Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, Healthy Cities Working Group, and Age Friendly Cities Working Group, and also has led the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Healthy Cities in the last 4 years as the Chair since 2014.

Ms Pong has put substantial efforts in harm reduction for alcohol and tobacco with engagement of youth and community members. She has also launched initiatives for Prevention of NCD with large scale study and interventions in collaboration with academics to strengthen evidence. Her work is not only in advocacy and policy, but also in various fields of research, national and international networking, community-based activities, media advocacy, and work with business sectors. Her continuous work will help cities and communities to have better place to live and expand the international network of Healthy Cities, and lead the AFHC work very efficient and productive.

**Professor Datu Dr Andrew Kiyu**, former Director of Sarawak Health Department, worked for Ministry of Health Malaysia, and is currently Professor of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia, Sarawak.

Professor Kiyu has been with the Alliance for Healthy Cities from the beginning, organizing the inaugural conference of the AFHC in 2004. He created Healthy City from zero and devoted himself in expanding Healthy Cities program in Kuching and international settings. Then, Kuching City has become one of the model of Healthy City in the region and beyond. Based on his very practical advice with global vision, he helped to develop Healthy Cities in many countries and will continue to work on expanding the network of Healthy Cities.

The AFHC Award Ceremony was held at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK), Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, during the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. More than 800 participants from all over the world and WHO professionals honored the awardees.

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For further information, please contact to:  
Secretariat of the Alliance for Healthy Cities  
c/o Promotion Committee for Healthy Cities,  
Kanda-surugadai, 2-1-19-1112, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan  
E-mail: [alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp](mailto:alliance.ith@tmd.ac.jp); FAX: +81 3 5577 6780