

## WHO Awards for Healthy Cities Now accepting applications for the 2006 Award Year!

WHO provide best practice awards and best proposal awards to recognize and support good practices and innovative projects implemented by the Alliance members. Last year's WHO Awards for Healthy Cities went to eight cities that showed outstanding achievements in tobacco-free and drug-free city environment, community-based rehabilitation, equity of health care, and the financial protection of the poor. This year, awards shall be given to members working in the following six areas.

### 1. Financing of Health Promotion Activities

The first area of the WHO award is financing of health promotion activities. Health promotion is one of the important areas of interventions that can reduce the disease burden by focusing on prevention factors that cause many diseases and injuries. There is broad acceptance that health promotion is an effective method for improving and maintaining population health at relatively low costs. Yet evidence shows that in reality, a very little share of health financing resources is disproportionately spent, mainly on hospital based curative services rather than health promotion activities. Health promotion policy is generally well defined and reflected in national health policies but we need to further secure necessary financial resources to implement health promotion policy and programmes. One good practice award will be given to the Alliance member with solid experiences and best practices in stable financing for health promotion programmes and activities.

### 2. Gender-Based Violence

The second award area is gender-based violence, an area that has long remained a feature of family and social life and society has preferred to



remain silent.

Gender-based violence takes many forms and affects a large number of women from all parts of the world. Although widespread, the precise extent of gender-based violence remains unknown, as survivors, perpetrators and authorities are all reluctant to provide reliable direct data. In recent decades, many efforts were placed to gather evidence on the dimensions of the problem as well as to promote awareness on its seriousness. Two good practice awards will be given to the Alliance members that has relevant experience and practice in addressing gender-based violence.

### 3. Breastfeeding Promotion and Protection at the Work Site



Breastfeeding promotion and protection at the work site is another area of the 2006 WHO award. About 3000 babies die every day in the Western Pacific Region, and

exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life has demonstrated its effectiveness to reduce child morbidity and improve growth and development of children. Despite its protective effects that extend beyond infancy and childhood, data shows that in almost all countries, mothers report their working situation makes it difficult for exclusively breastfeeding their infants for the first critical months. One of the most important elements affecting the feeding behaviour of working mothers is the support received in the working place, including access to information and facilities for either breastfeeding or breast milk expression/storage. A good practice award will be given to the Alliance member with policies on breastfeeding promotion, protection and support at the working place and that enforces such policies.

### 4. Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning

The WHO award for this year includes health emergency preparedness and response planning area. Disasters and emergencies do not only take a toll in lives,



but they can have even more serious economic consequences. Whatever development projects have been started out, these can easily be wiped out by an emergency hitting a city that has not been adequately prepared for it, or if the city has not taken measures to prevent or mitigate disasters. Approaches towards disaster prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness have been successful especially if they have been community based, inter-sectoral and participatory in approach. One good practice award shall be given to the Alliance member that exemplifies good practices and one best proposal award to the city that proposes innovative project in health emergency management.

### 5. Improving the Quality of Maternal and Newborn Care

In developing countries, pregnancy and childbirth are one of the leading causes of death for women of reproductive age. Mother Friendly Hospital Initiative (MFHI) is one of the strategies to reduce maternal mortality by improving quality of maternal and newborn care at health facilities. In order to implement MFHI, one needs to have



a strong political commitment, a national strategic plan, as well as to develop the criterion for a mother friendly health facility and the guidelines for standard of care for antenatal and



normal obstetrical care have to be developed according to Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth (MCPC). WHO will provide one good practice award to the Alliance member that exemplifies good practices and one best proposal award to the city that proposes a project with innovative, successful approach to implementing MFHI.

**6. Local Action for Social Determinants of Health in Urban Settings**

Last but not least, we are to announce that local action for social determinants of health in urban settings is one of the areas for the 2006 WHO award. The scale and rapidity of urbanization today is astonishing. Those who are disadvantaged by virtue of their ethnicity, caste, gender, and lack of education or other social factors are likely to experience a constellation of adverse conditions associated with urbanization. They include poor quality housing, vulnerable land tenure, inadequate water and sanitation, poor or non-existent health, education, social and other services, environmental pollution, unemployment or

dangerous work, poor public transport and all result in poor health. The role of healthy urban governance, local government as well as public, private and civil sectors is to manage the simultaneous creation and maintenance of all four forms of capital, in a balanced manner, and in a way that reduces inequity. Four best proposal awards shall be given to innovative projects proposed by the Alliance members with respect to 1) economics of urban settings and slums, 2) social capital, 3) shelter and housing, 4) healthy urban governance.



**Don't Be Left Out!**  
**31 August 2006** is the deadline for submissions for both the WHO and the AFHC Awards.

**Further Information**

For more details about this year's WHO and AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities, please check the award section on the Alliance website at <http://www.alliance-healthycities.com>.

**New ! : AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities**



Sharing the Healthy Cities concept and project characteristics ensures a common platform for Healthy Cities to exchange their experiences. The Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) will present the following three awards in recognition of diverse practices of Healthy Cities, progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation, and pioneers' work in Healthy Cities.

**1. Award for Good Practices of Healthy Cities**

There are many creative developments and good practices by Healthy Cities worldwide. This award recognizes good practices reflecting diverse socio-cultural, environment and development backgrounds.

**2. Award for Progress of Healthy Cities**

When long-term development projects are evaluated during the first few years, the focus should be on a process rather than outcomes because improvements in health status are only likely to change in the longer time. One of the following awards will be given with recognition of each city's progress: 1) award for healthy city with great potential, 2) award for healthy city with good performance, 3) award for healthy city with outstanding performance.

**3. Award for Pioneers in Healthy Cities**

Healthy Cities constantly need pioneering spirits and efforts to make things happen in the real world. This award recognizes individuals/groups (could be both AFHC members and non-members) who have more than 10 years experiences in relation to Healthy Cities.



## Get To Know Each Other

### Yeongi Better Life Better Yeongi



Yeongi is a county located in the centre of the Korean Peninsula, about 129m away from Seoul that has approx. 85,000 residents (in 2006).

#### Yeongi in brief

Population –  
82,732 (2003)  
Area – 361.4  
sq kilometers

The industrial base of Yeongi is agriculture. Peaches, pears, and grapes are the main products. Yeongi has excellence in manufacturing and education, too. There are about 400 business corporations and three universities.

Since 2002, Yeongi public health center has tried to increase the local community's health awareness through programs against smoking, and for moderate exercise, better nutrition, and moderation in drinking). One of its strategies is annual marathon races.

The first one was a 10km-run held in 2003. It



was organized by the public health center for local residents of Yeongi. Before the race, the center expected 1,000 people to join. However, much to the center's delights, 1,500 people joined the race. The scale of the event has increased since then, also. Now, there are runs of 5km, 10km, and 21km. Moreover, the management of this event has shifted from the public health center and local community groups. In 2003, the public healthy center managed 80% of the event, but in 2006 local community groups managed 90% of the event.

Yeongi is proud of these results and thinks the annual runs helped the public health center better communication with the local community, which is critical for developing a health city. Yeongi public health center is now recognized as a leading institution of public health and other public health centers visit it to study its methods.

### Article from Kuching - Good Living In The Suburbs -

"Good Living In The suburbs" was officially launched by YB Datuk

Alfred Yap Chin Loi, Assistant Minister in The Chief Minister's Office and Assistant Minister for Urban Developm



YB Datuk Alfred Yap Chin Loi, officially launching 'Good Living In The Suburbs'

ent, in conjunction with 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Padawan Council being elevated to a Municipality on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

The Assistant Minister hopes that the Council and residents will work in partnership so that there is total focus to improve the quality of life and to give better images of areas under Padawan Municipal Council as a clean, beautiful and peaceful suburban areas.

The area under the jurisdiction of the Council has shown tremendous development since its elevation to a municipality nine years ago and is already comparable to others suburban areas in other countries, with its beautiful housing and landscaped areas. With the new focus, the Council would be able to contribute positively and eventually become part of a "greater Kuching City", together with the two City Councils, Kuching City North Council and Kuching City South Council.

The theme, "Good Living In The Suburbs" also serves to supplement the Council's existing Vision and Mission of providing reliable and efficient municipal services and being a model local authority. To achieve the goals of "Good Living In The Suburbs", some residents would be rewarded for adhering to good living concept. This is in line with the Local Agenda 21 Concept of Community Involvement.



Due to limited resources and the importance of good living, a joint approach between MPP and the residents residing in the Council's area is sought. Residents in housing estates and villages would form

committees to identify what is good in their areas. Wherever possible, Padawan Municipal Council will provide assistance.

Country Vale Garden, situated at Datuk Stephen Yong Road is the first housing estate where the concept was

introduced and accepted by the residents. It is a joint effort between the developer, CJK Development Pte. Ltd. and the Council. Country Vale Garden comprises 22 units of double storey terraced houses, 6 units of double storey semi-detached houses and 1 unit of double storey detached house. It is a racially mixed housing estate. A (Residential) Development and Security Committee had



Taman Country Vale, Jalan Stephen Yong, an example of community and private sector participation

been set up by the residents of this housing estate to address social and environmental issues in the area.

Besides Country Vale Garden, a few housing estates and villages within the Council Municipality had been ear-marked for the project. A series of meetings and dialogues cum gatherings will be held with the residents with the hope that the concept would bear fruits in the long run.

### Korean Chapter commemorates 'Korea Healthy Cities Partnerships'

There have been several meetings with 12 AFHC member cities in Korea during the period between 2005 and 2006 in an effort to organize a kind of healthy cities networks, and Changwon City was chosen as the Convener City of 'Korea Healthy Cities Network' last March. In commemoration of this, Changwon City will host the 1st General Assembly and Conference for "Korea Healthy Cities Partnership" at the Changwon Convention Center on September 14-15, 2006.

In this conference, city officials and experts from 20 member cities will get together to establish the foundation for the development of healthy cities initiatives in Korea through the exchange of information and regional experiences. And officers from WHO, city officials and experts concerned with healthy cities abroad, including Suzhou City (China) and Hue City (Vietnam) will be invited.

The conference will take place in the morning and the general assembly meeting in the afternoon on September 14. The conference is intended to aim at sharing information and public policies among local governments and to pursue harmonious and sustainable development of the healthy cities in order to improve the quality of life, to accomplish the higher levels of health and to achieve the equity of health for the people in Korea.

## Mayors Assemble at the Summit in Suzhou

The Mayors Summit will be held on October 28, 2006, at the Suzhou Conference Center, Suzhou, China, on the first day of the Second General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. City Mayors will assemble and present how their cities have tackled urban challenges impacting the health and quality of life of their citizens, advocate the values and progress of Healthy Cities, and make pledges for the future. Chaired by the Mayor of Suzhou, the Mayors Summit will kick off the opening of the Alliance's door to cities working on health and quality of life not only in Asia but also outside of it.

## AFHC was invited to a WHO meeting on Social Determinants of Health

WHO Consultation on Social Determinants of Health in the Western Pacific Region was held in Beijing, China, 22-24 March 2006 by the participation of high-level policy makers in the region.

The meeting shared the work of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health which aims to compile evidence on successful interventions and policies that address determinants; advocate policies that address social determinants; and define a medium- and long-term action agenda for incorporating social determinants of health interventions into planning, policy, and technical work within WHO.

The Alliance for Healthy Cities was invited to this important meeting, attended by Dr Omi, Regional Director of WHO Western Pacific Region. The Hon Mayor of Kuching City South, the Chair of the Alliance for Healthy Cities; honourables from Suzhou, China; Hue, Vietnam; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; San Fernando, Philippines; other key individuals and the Head of Secretariat of the Alliance attended and contributed to the meeting.

The work of the Alliance for Healthy Cities has been recognized as a practical example of addressing social determinants of health, compiling evidence on successful interventions and policies, and advocating how cities can make something happen in actual local contexts.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Alliance discussed the relevance of the work on Social Determinants of Health in the Alliance for Healthy Cities and agreed to take this issue as one of the key technical topics of the Alliance.

## Second Year of the Japan Chapter

On July 20<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Second General Assembly and Conference of the AFHC Japan Chapter will be held at Wayo Women's University in Ichikawa City.

The Japan Chapter is planning to hold the conference to launch publicity campaigns for membership expansion, to provide technical and general information on Healthy Cities, and to hold a study meeting in cooperation with WHO Collaborating Centre.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the general assembly will be held to decide the chapter's policies. Then there will be the conference which includes a keynote lecture by Dr. Mitsunori Murata, an honorary professor of Tokyo Women's Medical University, some presentations on concrete examples of healthy city projects by member cities, and a mayor's panel discussion on the healthy city projects using power of residents.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, a study meeting hosted by WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy Research will be held in Tokyo.

Through these activities, the Japan Chapter hopes to strengthen the network and to encourage sharing of experiences among members.

The AFHC Japan Chapter was established on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 under the declaration of Inauguration of the AFHC Japan Chapter, and its First General Assembly and Conference was held at Ichikawa City Japan in July 2005. The number of the member cities is 23 as of June 2006.



ASEAN Healthy Cities Conference was organized by Ministry of Health Malaysia, Putrajaya Cooperation, and Kuala Lumpur City Hall, on 28 March, 2006. Hon. Deputy Minister of Health, Malaysia; Hon. Health Minister of the Philippines; and Healthy City Mayors of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (Ichikawa, Japan; Parañaque, Philippines; Namhae, Republic of Korea) attended the conference. Participants included members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, from Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Vietnam, country representatives from Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and delegates of cities in Malaysia.

## Newsletter of The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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