



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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Conclusion of the Second General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, 28-30 October 2006, Suzhou, China

October 30, 2006 --- The Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) is an international network that aims at protecting and enhancing health and quality of life of urban dwellers.

More than 400 experts in healthy cities and urban public health from 20 countries attended the Second General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities that was held between 28th and 30th of October, 2006, in Suzhou, China. They included representatives from WHO, leaders of China, Jiangsu Province, and City of Suzhou.

Forty-one honorable city mayors signed the Proclamation by the Mayors of Healthy Cities at Suzhou. Mayors and representatives proclaimed that they would cooperate as an international community, in order to address the urban problems and issues about quality of urban society life, by creating healthy city environments.

Issues of the globalizing world such as rapidly changing environmental, social and economic factors influencing health and quality of life in cities were presented. Technical presentations showed the broad interests of individual cities and their various practices in evaluation, and identifying priority issues in diverse areas. It was shown that these cities are now ready to tackle cross-cutting urban health issues in creative ways. Awards from WHO and AFHC to members were given in various categories.

The question "How can cities become healthier places to live?" was discussed. The two answers were; further information exchanges between cities and critical thinking. In particular, two areas were deemed crucial: a deeper understanding of how cities can work on social determinants of health; and solid frameworks for evaluations of results based on actual implementations of Healthy City programs enacted under different social/ political environments.

Conference delegates were able to visit sites in Suzhou to observe the application of the "Healthy City" concept in different settings in communities. The delegates expressed sincere appreciation for the generous hospitality and various supports by the conference host, the City of Suzhou.

The General Assembly of the AFHC set three priorities for the AFHC's work for the next two years: membership expansion, collective efforts to work on selected technical programs relevant to cities, and media involvement. It also stated that AFHC could bring further benefits in promotion of health and quality of life by developing various channels of networks inside and outside of itself.

For further information please contact to:

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