



**The Alliance for Healthy Cities**

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## Asian city leaders to discuss dangers to citizens' health

**Tokyo, Japan – October 10, 2008** --- City leaders in the Asia-Pacific region are to hold a public health summit amid fears that the health of citizens in the region cannot be protected without local communities' commitment.

“What happens to Asian people is what matters to the globe in this day and age,” says Dr. Keiko Nakamura, Secretariat of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC), the organization sponsoring the conference.

The summit, the Third General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, is to convene from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan. 40 mayors from 10 countries will attend the conference; discussions are to take place with business leaders, academics and citizens.

“All the threats against global health security emerge from Asia; the SARS outbreak in 2003, the avian influenza threat in 2005, and now, food contamination is a big problem,” she says. “Collaboration and networking among various sectors, especially among local governments, are in urgent need to promote health security.”

The main idea of the conference is “Health Security in the City: Healthy Cities Activities building a better future.” Mayors are to discuss efforts against emerging threats and persistent ones such as obesity and smoking.

The conference is organized by the AFHC, Ichikawa City and the Organizing Committee, and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO). Dr. Shigeru Omi, regional director of the WPRO, is to make a keynote address on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

The participants are to release the Ichikawa Declaration on 25<sup>th</sup> October, which would encourage commitment from various sectors. There will be photo opportunities during the Mayors' Summit portion of the conference.

AFHC is an international network of cities, NGOs and academics, aiming at improving quality of life in urban communities. The alliance was initiated with the support of the World Health Organization in 2003, and 120 cities and organizations have joined the network ever since. “Yes, the network has grown so far, but we need more members to enhance committed collaboration among various levels: cities, communities, academics and national and international bodies,” Dr. Nakamura says.

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