



The Alliance for Healthy Cities

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PRESS RELEASE

Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) awarded 15 cities, 1 university and 2 individuals for their efforts in healthy cities movement

Ichikawa, Japan – October 25, 2008 --- The Alliance for Healthy Cities has worked with its member cities and organizations to advocate the “Healthy Cities” concept and has extended projects and programs for planning, implementations and evaluation for the improvement of health and quality of life of the people in cities.

AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities recognizes the diversity of practices of Healthy Cities, progress of respective Healthy Cities initiatives based on process evaluation, and the work of pioneers in Healthy Cities.

On October 25, 2008, the 3rd Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities was hosted by Ichikawa City, Japan. The Chairman of the Award Committee of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, Professor Albert Lee, from the Centre of Health Education and Health Promotion, Chinese University of Hong Kong, announced the award winners in three categories.

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 arising 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, 11 cities and organizations received this award.

Zhangjiagang City, China for their project of “Let the Youth Live in the Sunshine”;
Yeongdeungpo-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea for their project of “Bicycle Parking Towers” featuring a hope for carbon saving; Universiti Sains Malaysia: Healthy Campus Programme for their project of “The White Coffin” referring student activism for sustainability; Phnom Penh Municipality, Cambodia for their practice on setting up a health-care waste management system; Parañaque City, Philippines for their project of “Adolescent Friendly Reproductive Health Services (AFRHS)”;
Owariasahi City, Japan for their project of “The Asapy City Bus System”, a means to secure transport to make a Healthy City with healthy people; Logan City, Australia for their project of “Eat Play Live Well Logan (EPLWL)”;
Kwai Tsing Safe Community & Healthy City Association, Hong Kong SAR, China for their activities on diabetes retinopathy screening – a collaborative project to reduce blindness due to diabetes in the community;
Ichikawa City, Japan for their project of “1% Support System” where citizens can direct 1% of their taxes to NGOs;
Dongjak-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea for their project of “Active Aging in Dongjak”; and Changwon City, Republic of Korea for their practice on health promotion for foreign workers.

Awards for Progress of Healthy Cities

The approach of “Healthy Cities Program’ (HCP) is based on the philosophy that: (1) enhancement of health comes through improvements in certain social, cultural and economic conditions and through changes in human attitudes; (2) initiatives improve personal and environmental health; and (3) health is 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 the 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 the longer term. The following awards were given based on a city’s progress on their reports. This year, 11 cities got awards for progress.

Awards for Healthy City with Great Potential were presented to 2 cities: Changwon City, Republic of Korea; and Luohu District, China.

Awards for Healthy City with Good Dynamics were presented to 6 cities: Geumsan County, Republic of Korea; Ichikawa City, Japan; Jinju City, Republic of Korea; Owariasahi City, Japan; Parañaque City, Philippines; and Wonju City, Republic of Korea.

One city was nominated for the *Award for Healthy City with Strong Action*. The awardee was Sai Kung District, Hong Kong SAR, China.

Awards 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 the Healthy Cities Program and have contributed to international developments of Healthy Cities.

This year, this award was honorably presented to 2 leaders of cities for their contributions on expanding healthy cities world-wide.

The awardees were: Hon. Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando, Marikina City, Philippines for her pioneering work in political advocacy; national, regional and international networking; legislation and institutions, capacity building, community-based activities, and mentoring; and Mr. George NG, of Sai Kung District Council, Hong Kong SAR, China for his pioneering work in sub-regional and international networking; capacity building, and community-based activities.

The AFHC Award Ceremony was held at APA Hotel, Makuhari, Japan, during the 3rd Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities. 500 participants from 14 countries including WHO professionals lauded the awardees.

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