



Proclamation by the Mayors of Healthy Cities at Suzhou

At the Healthy City Mayors' Summit during the Second General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities, October 28-30, 2006 in Suzhou, we shared our experiences and discussed goals and strategies for developing healthy cities. Accordingly, we have formulated the following proclamation:

The development of healthy cities is a global initiative prompted by the World Health Organization to improve the health of people who are influenced by urbanization. This helps promote standards of living and creates harmony between people, their surroundings and society.

The global experience of building healthy cities has shown that healthy cities facilitate the improvement of the conditions that determine health and quality of life provided that we offer health service as basic projects, prepare health-supportive environments, make guarantees for healthy environments, make better health our ultimate goal, and coordinate with the efforts of non-governmental organizations and citizens. Thus, a safe, healthy and advanced society will emerge and cities will become stronger and more vital.

It is essential that we pay serious attention to the following problems which affect people undergoing urbanization: infectious diseases shared by humans and poultry such as avian flu, and serious infectious diseases such as AIDS; use of unsafe domestic articles; unhealthy lifestyles; lack of education on health and health promotion; drug and alcohol abuse; extravagant use of water and energy resources; unplanned pregnancies in adolescence; and unsafe living environments.

Today, we proclaim that we will make more cities healthy and give priority to solving the above problems considering the benefits for citizens. Furthermore, we will be responsible for enhancing communication and sharing the experiences gained by these cities. We propose making every October a "Month for Healthy Cities" and make healthy city the common pursue of the international society.

October 28, 2006

Signatures of mayors present: