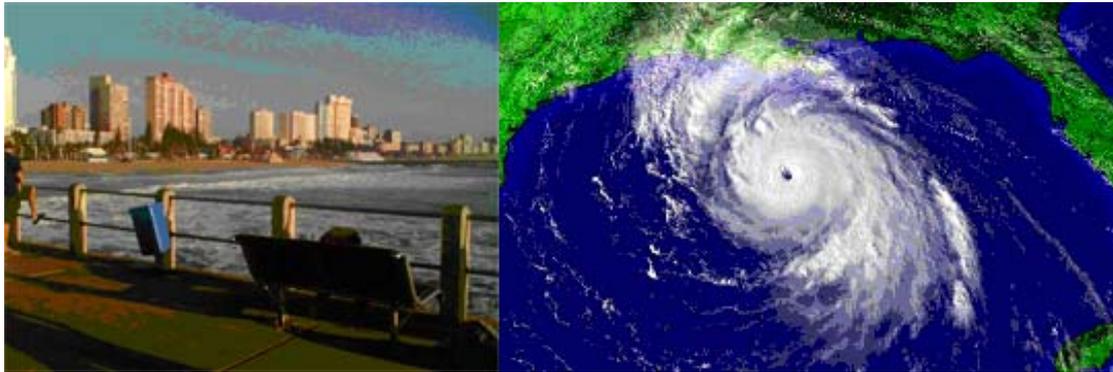


Climate change and health in cities



1. Background

The Fourth Assessment Report (AR-4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century was very likely due to the increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations. The globally averaged surface warming projected for the end of the 21st century (2090–2099) will vary between 1.1–6.4 °C. It is very likely that heat waves and heavy precipitation events will continue to become more frequent. It is likely that future tropical cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes) will become more intense, causing loss of life and increased injuries. These climatic changes will cause the disruption of ecosystem services to support human health and livelihood, and will impact health systems.

The current and emerging climate change-related health risks in Asia and the Pacific include heat stress and water- and food-borne diseases (e.g. cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases) associated with extreme weather events (e.g. heat waves, storms, floods and flash floods, and droughts); vector borne disease (e.g. dengue and malaria); respiratory diseases due to air pollution; aeroallergens, food and water security issues; malnutrition; and psychosocial concerns from displacement. There is growing, but still limited, political commitment to integrate health considerations in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change at national and international levels in the Region. There is also insufficient awareness among the general public about climate change and its impact on health.

Health concerns should be incorporated into all decisions and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to ensure that these decisions and actions also enhance health. For example, by promoting the use of non-motorized transport systems (e.g. bicycles) and fewer private vehicles, greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced, air quality would improve and more people would be physically active. Such an approach would produce associated benefits (i.e. to reduce the burden of disease while lowering greenhouse gas emissions) and needs to be promoted.



2. Good Practice Awards

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for application for good practice awards in Healthy Cities as follows:

Awards given:

Outstanding practices and innovative, successful approaches to addressing health concerns and improving health and quality of life in a city while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to the effects of climate change.

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

Materials to be submitted:

A written report, and other supporting materials, describing (1) the approach and activities undertaken to address health concerns and improve health and quality of life while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to the effects of climate change, (2) measurable outcomes of implementing the approach and activities, and (3) other information considered useful for evaluating the submission.

Deadline for submission:

31 August 2008

3. Best Proposal Award

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for proposals for innovative projects in Healthy Cities as follows:

Subject area:

Protecting health from climate change in a city. Innovative proposal for activities to protect and/or enhance health while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to the effects of climate change in a city.

Seed money awarded:

USD10 000

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities



Format of proposal:

The following sections should be included:

- Background (project area, baseline information of the area, etc.)
- Objectives
- Proposed approach and activities to address health concerns and improve health and quality of life while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to the effects of climate change
- Evaluation methodology
- Other pertinent information

Deadline for submission:

31 August 2008

4. Contact Information

Applications to both awards and any queries should be sent to:

*Regional Adviser in Healthy Settings and Environment
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
P.O. Box 2932 (U.N. Avenue)
1000 Manila, Philippines
Fax: +63(2) 521-1036
E-mail: hse@wpro.who.int or ogawah@wpro.who.int*

