



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Press Release

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Six outstanding cities in Asia-Pacific recognized by WHO

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia—Six cities were given recognition by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the conference and inaugural general assembly of the Alliance for Healthy Cities in Kuching, Malaysia for their outstanding achievements in Healthy Cities projects. Dr Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of WHO in the Western Pacific led the WHO awards ceremony in one of the largest gatherings for Healthy Cities in the Region. Over 400 delegates representing 25 cities in Asia participated in the event from 12 to 14 October.

Kuching (Malaysia) and Healthy Cities Illawarra (Australia) received the Regional Director's award for their longstanding track record in improving quality of life using the Healthy Cities approach. Both cities were also cited for their international contribution to advocacy for Healthy Cities.

WHO also presented Healthy City project awards to:

- Marikina City (Philippines) for “Best Practice for Healthy Environments for Children”;
- Ulaanbatar City (Mongolia) for “Best Proposal for Healthy Environments and Children”;
- Ichikawa City (Japan) and Marikina City (Philippines) for “Best Proposal for Integrating Diet and Physical Activity in Urban Planning”;
- Seoul (Republic of Korea) for “Best Proposal for Health Promotion Investment Planning”; and
- Marikina City (Philippines) for “Making Cities Safe Through Emergency Preparedness Planning”.

The awardees received plaques of recognition and project support funds from \$4000 to \$10,000 to continue their work and promote the Healthy Cities approach through their innovations.

The Alliance was established recently to meet the growing needs of Healthy Cities in the Region. The conference theme is “Bringing Healthy Cities to Greater Heights through Stronger Networking and Community Empowerment.” More than 80 technical papers and poster exhibits on the conference theme were presented by Healthy Cities and other stakeholders.

Dr Omi encouraged other cities in the Region to join the Alliance for Healthy Cities and participate in networking and information sharing among cities to promote health and improve quality of life in the Region.

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