

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY CITIES

CONFERENCE & INAUGURAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



12 – 14 October 2004
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuching

Organised by

SARAWAK HEALTHY CITIES SECRETARIAT

STATE PLANNING UNIT

CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

REPORT ON ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY CITIES INAUGURAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE 2004

1. Introduction

Kuching City was chosen by the Alliance for Healthy Cities Interim Steering Committee to be the Convener City to host the Inaugural General Assembly and Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC). The State Government agreed to this proposal, as it was a reflection of the recognition given by the international community on the State's contribution in spearheading the Healthy Cities programme in the Western Pacific region since 1994.

Sarawak Healthy Cities Secretariat led by State Planning Unit and assisted by Sarawak State Health Department, Kuching North City Hall (DBKU), Kuching South City Council (MBKS), Land and Survey Department and Padawan Municipal Council was given the task to organise the conference in collaboration with World Health Organization Western Pacific Region and Alliance For Healthy Cities Interim Secretariat (Tokyo Medical and Dental University).

2. Alliance for Healthy Cities Inaugural General Assembly and Conference

The Inaugural General Assembly and Conference of AFHC was successfully held on **12-14 October 2004** in Crowne Plaza Riverside Hotel, Kuching with the theme *"Bringing Healthy Cities to Greater Heights through Stronger Networking and Community Empowerment"*. The conference was attended by 352 participants, which included 146 foreign participants and 206 Malaysian participants.

The events during the AFHC Inaugural General Assembly and Conference are as follow:

2.1 Pre-Assembly Meeting, 11 October 2004

Chairman and members of the Interim Steering Committee and Interim Secretariat met on 11 October 2004 prior to the Assembly to finalize the agenda, propose amendments to the draft Charter and reports, propose budget for 2005-2006 and Activity Plan 2005–2006, as well as discuss the expenditure for 2004 and new membership. The meeting as attended by the Convener City Mayors.



Photo : Members of the Interim Steering Committee and Interim Secretariat at the Pre-Assembly Meeting

2.2 Official Opening, 12 October 2004

The Inaugural Assembly and Conference of the Alliance For Healthy Cities (AFHC) was officially opened by the Tan Sri Dr. George Chan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak who was representing the Chief Minister of Sarawak. Mr. Shigeru Omi, the Regional Director of WHO Western Pacific Region, Mdm. Lourdes C. Fernando, the Mayor of Marikina City, Philippines cum the chairman of Interim Steering Committee, Hj. Madehi Kolek, Mayor of Kuching North, Y.B. Chan Seng Khai, Mayor of Kuching South, and other delegates were also present during the opening ceremony.





Photo : Official Opening Ceremony of Alliance for Healthy Cities Inaugural General Assembly and Conference by Tan Sri Dr. George Chan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak

2.3 Official Dinner, 12 October 2004

The Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak on behalf of the Chief Minister of Sarawak and the Government of Sarawak hosted the dinner on 12 December 2004 for all members of the AFHC, WHO officials, delegates, speakers, observers and guests.



Photo : Deputy Chief Minister Delivering His Speech during the Dinner



Photo : Among the Foreign Participants during the Dinner



Photo: Presentation of AFHC Membership Certificate to AFHC Member City



Photo : Cultural Show during the Dinner

2.4 General Assembly, 13 October 2004

The Inaugural General Assembly of Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) was held on October 13th 2004. The General Assembly was attended by all the AFHC member cities and chaired by the Mayor of Kuching City North, Hj. Madehi Kolek.



Photo : Inaugural General Assembly of AFHC

The General Assembly then accepted the amendments to the draft charter which officially became the Charter of the Alliance For Healthy Cities (AFHC).

The Assembly then approved without changes the expenditure for 2004, the budget for 2005-2006, the annual membership fee of USD 500.00 annually for 2005 and 2006, the activity plan for 2005-2006, and the membership application procedure.

The General Assembly accepted the proposal of the Assembly Chairman to appoint the Interim Steering Committee as members of the Steering Committee for 2005-2006. The Assembly also agreed to the nomination of Healthy Cities Noarlunga and Healthy Cities Illawara to fill the vacancy representing NGOs by annual rotation and to leave the posts for private/business sector and international agency vacant for the time being since there is no private sector member yet.



Photo : Hj. Madehi Kolek, DBKU Mayor the First Chairman of AFHC, chairing the Assembly



Photo : Officials from WHO at the Inaugural General Assembly of AFHC

The Assembly endorsed the proposal for the Department of Health Promotion/International Health of the Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan to be the Secretariat for AFHC. The Assembly gratefully accepted the advisory role and continuous support of WHO Western Pacific Region to the AFHC.

The Assembly unanimously accepted the City of **Suzhou**, China as the next convener city for the **General Assembly in 2006**.



Photo : Symbolic Hand-Over Role of Next Convener City (in 2006) to the Representative from Suzhou City, China

2.5 AFHC Steering Committee Meeting, 13 October 2004

The Chairman and members of the Steering Committee and Secretariat met after the Assembly as the first Steering Committee Meeting of the AFHC. The meeting adopted the proposed organisation structure, including the appointment of chairman to the various sub-committees finalized the activity Plan 2005 – 2006.



Photo : First Steering Committee Meeting of the AFHC.

2.6 Conference:

The conference commenced after the official opening. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Shigeru Omi, the Regional Director WHO Western Pacific Region on the topic “Health and Civilization – Challenges for the 21st Century”.

There were three plenary papers presented at the conference, as follows:

- Bringing Healthy Cities to greater heights through Networking
- Bringing Healthy Cities to greater heights through Community Participation
- Bringing Healthy Cities to greater heights through Capacity Building



Photo : Shigeru Omi delivering his Keynote Address

2.7 Parallel Symposia:

Seven tracts of parallel symposia with a total of 48 presentations were held on October 14th 2004. These were: Planning, Collaboration and Partnership; Lifestyle and Health Promotion; Physical and Environment; Community Participation; City Recreation And Tourism; and, Research and Evaluation. The presenters were healthy city practitioners and academics.



Photo : Among the Presentations During the Symposia

2.8 Exhibition and Poster Presentations

Exhibition and poster presentations were also held during the conference, with the objectives to share the healthy cities experience and spread the messages to the participants. There were 30 poster presentations of Healthy settings and initiatives by various international and local Alliance members, delegates and observers.



Photo : VIPs at the Exhibition

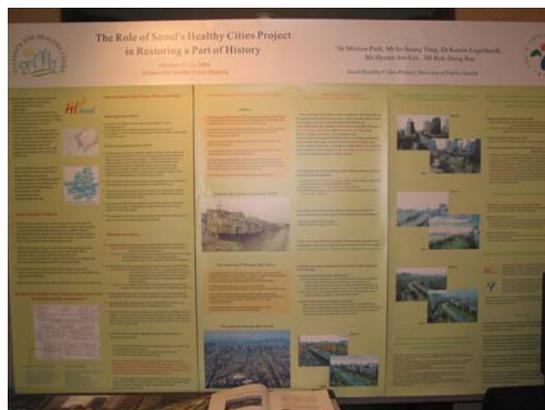


Photo : Some of the Posters Exhibited

2.9 Visits

In conjunction with the Healthy Cities Inaugural General Assembly and Conference, arrangements were made for the participants to visit several places of interest, i.e. *Taman Rimba Samajaya (Stutong Forest Park)*, Matang Septic Sludge Treatment Plant and city tour, which are relevant to the healthy city setting.

2.10 Concurrent Activities

The Sarawak Government launched the Ecological Sanitation Pilot Project during this Assembly and conference as a concurrent event. It was officially declared open by Datuk Michael Manyin, Minister of Environment and Public Health Sarawak. The Danish Ambassador to Malaysia is also present at the launching ceremony.

In conjunction with the launching of the Ecological Sanitation Pilot Project, the agreement was also signed between UNIMAS, Norwegian Agricultural University and Denmark Agricultural University to conduct research on the relevant field.

3. Healthy City Awards

During the official opening of the conference, WHO presented awards to cities that have fulfilled various criteria set by WHO in maintaining and improving the quality of life of urban population. The award recipients are as follow:

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



Photo : Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Malaysia and Kuching Mayors receiving the Award from WHO Regional Director

4. Finance

A registration fee of US\$100 and RM300 was charged to each of the foreign and local participant respectively to cover parts of the organizing costs e.g. hotel, meals, transportation, etc. The event was also supported by a cash grant of RM80,000 plus some material assistance from Ministry of Health Malaysia. The State Government contributed to the cost of the dinner (RM26,000). The combined revenue from various sources was sufficient to cover the overall cost.

5. Conclusion:

The assembly, conference and exhibition were successfully conducted by the organizers. All functions and activities went without any hiccups. Thanks to the organizing committee and a very efficient and expert technical committee who worked day and night to ensure the assembly and conference went smoothly and above all, made sure all the delegates, participants and guests were well taken care of.

The support given by the Ministry of Health Malaysia, the State Government of Sarawak and WHO Western Pacific Region need very special mention and thanks because without their support this assembly and conference would not have been such a success.

Prepared By :

State Planning Unit
Chief Minister Department
Sarawak, Malaysia
April 2005