SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE (DRAFT)
3rd Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities
Health Security in the City: Healthy Cities Activities building a better future

The Third Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities will be hosted by the city of Ichikawa, Japan, with the theme "Health Security in the City: Healthy Cities Activities building a better future". Discussion will focus on emerging and persistent threats to human health where collective actions in cities will make a difference, as well as on holistic approach in local governance issues which Healthy Cities address in helping to promote health and quality of life of the citizens. A particular feature of this conference is participation of citizens and people from business sectors to a gathering of Mayors and officers from cities in the world and international leading academics to deliberate global issues.

There is growing concern regarding international health security, and the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling the attention of global society to threats to the health of the population[1]. Action at global and national levels on health security has already been initiated. A revised International Health Regulation was enacted on 15 June 2007 and the international community is working together to save lives and livelihoods endangered by the international spread of diseases and other health risks[2]. However, without a full use of city's capacity to address health issues and without effective mechanisms to continuously develop community resources, global health cannot be ensured in this era where the commitment of cities, from the forefront of health security, is paid considerable attention.

The Alliance for Healthy Cities has worked with WHO to protect and enhance the health of city dwellers by improving cities' capacity to develop their physical and social environments and expand community resources by promoting interaction among people working in the front lines of health and quality of life in the city[3].

There have been extensive organizational developments since 2003, and the Alliance has formed a network of 88 cities and other organizations to work together with a

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[1] WHO, April 2007
[2] WHO, International Health Regulations, 2005
[3] The Alliance for Healthy Cities (http://www.alliance-healthycities.com/), 2004

common vision. While the priority health issues vary from city to city, there is a generic approach to strengthening any city's capacity to developing a Healthy Cities project[4].

Healthy Cities encourages a whole-of-government approach at the local level by building health and quality of life considerations into the core of a city's policy agenda. Building health considerations into urban development and management is crucial for Healthy Cities.

The capacity of a city is consisted of the capabilities of people of local governments, communities, businesses, and civic groups operating in local settings. The collective capacities of those individuals and groups affect improvements in health and quality of life at the local, national, and international levels.

Plenary sessions and Mayors Summit of the Conference discuss commitment of cities to promptly counteract emerging threats against human health and international cooperation to promote Healthy Cities. Parallel sessions provide fora to discuss wide-range issues related to emerging and persistent threats to human health as well as holistic approach in local governance issues strengthened by Healthy Cities approach.

> *[1] The emerging threats against human health include rapidly spreading diseases, climate change, environmental pollution, contaminated food, crime, bioterrorism, natural disasters, and chemical spills or radioactive accidents. Cities are in the forefront of these threats, and the capacity to promptly counteract these problems will secure the health of our cities and the world.*

> *[2] Persistent threats to human health have been identified in the city. They include vulnerablities in society; changing food systems influencing diet; lifestyle and environmental changes disrupting physical activity for health and fitness; and increased fragility in social support for mental health. Healthy cities must create conditions supportive to health despite facing these challenges.*

> *[3] The following issues will be discussed to further strengthen organizational development of the Alliance and intensify the Healthy Cities approach in urban areas: strengthening capacities of national and sub-national chapters of the Alliance; the settings approach; evaluation in Healthy Cities; community development; and effective use of information technology.*

A city taking a Healthy Cities approach with advanced programs and institutional developments is ready to secure health in that city. Innovative developments by Healthy Cities are worth sharing and discussing to strengthen cities' approach to the theme of the

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[4] WHO/WPRO, Regional Guidelines for Developing a Healthy Cities Project, 2000

conference: "Health Security in the City".

Mayors and governors, international and national leaders, practitioners, academics, community members, people from business sectors and civic groups will gather in Ichikawa, to share information on the issues of health security and related good practices in the city. The participants proclaim a strong message to the world. This will lead diverse actions at the local, national and international levels.

Health Security in the City:
Healthy Cities Activities building a better future

Efforts against Emerging Threats

- Creating safer living environments by counteracting: rapidly spreading diseases/ climate change/ environmental pollution/ contaminated food/ crime/ bioterrorism/ natural disasters/ chemical spills or radioactive accidents

Efforts against Persistent Threats

- The Healthy Cities tasks for future generations
- Considering dietary issues from various aspects
- Physical activities for health and fitness
- Supportive environment for mental health

Strengthening the Alliance

- Chapter activities enhancing the networking of Healthy Cities
- The settings approach moves toward the future
- Evaluation in Healthy Cities for mechanizing sustainability
- Development of the community through the Healthy Cities approaches
- Effective use of information technology in Healthy Cities initiatives