



**KAROLINSKA
INSTITUTET**
Department of Public Health
Sciences
Division of Social Medicine



**WHO COLLABORATING
CENTRE**
ON
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

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***** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*****

Welcome to the thirteenth issue of Safe Community Weekly News, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News will be send from Harstad - Norway on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

- **PROGRAMS: Tai Po, Hong Kong, China**
- **PROGRAMS: Injury Prevention and Safety in Myanmar**
- **CONFERENCE: 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference and 2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference**
- **CONFERENCE: 6th National Conference, Bridges to Safety, Ontario**

Will Tai Po be the Third designated Safe Community in Hong Kong, China?

“The Pai Po Safe and Healthy City” is a community-based project aiming to create a safe and healthy “culture” in the City of Tai Po, one of the 18 districts of greater Hong Kong, China. The project is led by a Steering and Working Committee co-chaired by Mr Cheung Hok Ming- Chairman of Tai Po District Council and Dr Raymond Chen, Hospital Chief Executive of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital.



Professor Leif Svanström, WHO CC and Mr Simon P K Sit, Chairman of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital Executive Committee great each other at the Mural unveiling ceremony flanked by Dr Raymond Chen, Hospital Chief Executive and Mr Cheung Hok Ming- Chairman of Tai Po District Council.

The “Mural Design Competition” is one of the launching programmes of the “Tai Po Safe and Healthy City” open to all primary and secondary schools with the aim to produce a mosaic mural depicting an ideal safe and healthy city. The inauguration cum Mural unveiling Ceremony was held on Saturday 15 March in the presence of Ms Moa Sundström and Dr Leif Svanström from the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. The winning pupils and Schools were presented plaques at the event.



The audience at the Ceremony lead by Ms Moa Sundström from the WHO CC.

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Injury prevention and Safety not yet a high priority in Myanmar – other health problems are more prominent – but reasons to be optimistic for the future.



The famous Schwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar.

General situation in Myanmar

According to General Statistical Office (1997) Myanmar is a country of 46.4 million people with natural resources incl. land, water, natural gas, coal, petroleum, mineral and marine resources. Since 1988 market oriented system has been introduced. 1/3 of the population are under 15 years of age. Life expectancy (both sexes) is estimated to 62.6 years in 1997. Infant mortality has decreased during 7 years from 94 to 74.7, due to “strengthening Basic Health services for all children with special focus on under-served areas”. Major causes of under 5 mortality in Myanmar are diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, measles, malnutrition, brain infections (non specific & TB), cerebral malaria, premature delivery and birth injuries (WHO, Country Office of Myanmar April 2001).



Children in Myanmar – 1/3 of the population. **Religion – Buddhism - plays an important part in life in Myanmar.**

Priority areas in Health for 2002-2005.

The following priority areas has been identified for 2002-5:

- Health system;
- Excess burden of diseases;
- Women’s health/ reproductive health;
- Child and adolescent health;
- Healthy environment; and
- Major risk factors hazardous to health.

According to Dr Agostino Borra, Head of the WHO Representative’s Office in Myanmar, injury prevention falls under “Healthy Environment”.



Dr Agostino Borra, WHO Representative in Myanmar. Professor Kyaw Myint Naing.

The National expert on Injury prevention on behalf of the Ministry o Health is since long Professor Kyaw Myint Naing.

He is a professor and Head of Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery at the Institute of Medicine in Yangon. He is also the Vice President of Myanmar Medical Association. Based on his clinical observations he has for about three decade been involved in many activities to prevent injuries.

In his “Accident Prevention Project” he initially states: “As Myanmar moves on the path of socio-economic development there is a shift in epidemiological transition towards non- communicable diseases, out of which accidents and its sequele are the most prominent.” The two areas he points to

are Road Traffic Accidents and Industrial Accident Prevention. The prevention activities have been concentrated to Yangon and Mandalay cities. Because of “multisectorial accident prevention activities” these cities now show decreasing trends in mortality due to injuries. There is however still no uniform data collection system for injuries in the Country.

Safe Community Seminar

On the 11th of March 2003 a seminar was held in the Medical Faculty attracting both Faculty members from Medicine and undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students. Professor Leif Svanström introduced the WHO Safe Community Concept. Professor Kyaw Myint Naing commented upon this by introducing especially steps taken to improve traffic safety.



Professors Kyaw Myint Naing & Leif Svanström.

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**7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference
2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference
15 – 17 September 2004
Mackay, Quesland, Australia**

This conference will seek to:

- pool expertise across professional and national boundaries
- gain a richer understanding of what safety is and how it is achieved
- discover new insights into the meaning of risk and the means of controlling risk
- share interventions, research and policy that are cutting edge.

For more information, please visit the conference website

www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/conference2004

For registration

Maria Lamari

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2003 Safe Communities Foundation 6th National Conference: Bridges to Safety October 22-24, Sarnia, Ontario

Join the Safe Communities Foundation for its 6th national conference, hosted this year by the Lambton Safe Community Council. Delegates from across Canada will attend to discuss action plans to reduce injuries at the local, provincial and national levels. You'll find out how other Safe Communities are meeting their challenges, hear success strategies and learn about injury prevention and health promotion programs.

Program Highlights

Wednesday, October 22: Pre-conference Workshop: Marketing, Media and Money

Preliminary Sessions Topics

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Workplace Injuries • PASSPORT To Safety • Sustainability in Established Safe Communities • CN Rail Safety • Safety in the Aboriginal Community • Sports Injury Prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Safe Community in Larger Communities • Youth Programs • RISK WATCH Programs For Youth • Safety and Seniors • Traffic and Road Safety • Bullying: What Can Be Done? |
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Networking Opportunities

- Mix and Mingle: 3:00 -10:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 22
- SCF & Lambton Awards Banquet: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 23

Who Should Attend

You should attend if you are involved with Safe Communities, would like to know more about how to become a Safe Community or how to build the momentum for sustainable injury prevention. Delegates hail from many disciplines including municipalities, businesses, health care, mental health workers, emergency and rescue services, law enforcement, researchers; planners and policy makers at the municipal, regional, provincial and national levels.

Registration Fees (includes conference materials, 5 meals and GST)

Early Bird (before September 15): **\$350.00**

Regular Rate: (after September 15): **\$400.00**

To download a registration form, visit www.safecommunities.ca or

call the SCF at 416-964-0008;

Fax: 416-964-0089

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Please send your activities, programs and reports via post/ e-mail to the editor: Yousif Rahim yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no,

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