



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET  
Department of Public Health Sciences  
Division of Social Medicine



WHO COLLABORATING  
CENTRE  
ON  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

## SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

NO. 40  
December 2002

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the fortieth 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:

- CONFERENCE: 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Injury Prevention, Viet Nam
- Report: Injury registration for monitoring and prevention: Experiences and challenges, Norway
- CONFERENCE: 12<sup>th</sup> Int. Safe Community Conference, Hong Kong, China

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## 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Injury Prevention Held in Hanoi

***United Nations Children's Fund Praises Government's Dedication to Protecting Children's Lives***



**Hanoi (17 December 2002)** – The 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on the Implementation of the National Policy on Injury Prevention was held in Hanoi. The conference, attended by over 400 high-level representatives of the Government, ministries, mass organisations and international organisations, represents another major step in Viet Nam's efforts to address the leading cause of death and disability among Vietnamese children – preventable injuries.

Dignitaries speaking at the event included Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem and Minister of Health and Head of the National Steering Committee for Injury Prevention Dr. Tran Thi Trung Chien, both of whom emphasised the need to take further action to reduce the prevalence of deaths and injuries arising from accidents in homes, schools, workplaces, the nation's roads and in communities.

In her keynote address to the conference, UNICEF Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific Mehr Khan, noted that drowning, poisoning, traffic accidents, landmines, unexploded ordnance, falls and other injuries arising from preventable accidents are taking an ever-growing toll on the lives and health of Viet Nam's children, as well as children throughout Southeast Asia and the world.

"Drowning is far and away the biggest killer of Viet Nam's children," Mrs. Khan noted. "Among children four to fifteen years of age, drowning constitutes over 50 percent of all injury-related deaths, and drowning actually claims ten times as many lives among children five to nine years of age compared to traffic accidents."

Mrs. Khan praised the Government's efforts in addressing this threat, noting that during this year's Mekong Delta floods, the Government succeeded in cutting child drowning deaths in half through co-ordinated disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Preventable injuries not only lead to death and disability, they also place an enormous toll on Viet Nam's health sector, forcing hospitals to expend an undue amount of resources on rehabilitative and remedial care – resources that would otherwise be used for the provision of comprehensive prenatal care, preventative care, and other essential health and nutrition programmes.

Attendees at today's conference stated that wide-ranging measures are required to address this growing problem, including new legislation, more aggressive enforcement of existing traffic, building and labour laws, mandatory motorbike helmet use, continued support for disaster preparedness and response activities, and enhanced emergency health and rehabilitation services.

"Parents have a particularly important role to play," UNICEF Regional Director Mehr Khan said, noting that countless deaths and injuries could be prevented if parents had a better appreciation of dangers their children face in their own home, such as boiling water, electrical wires and toxic substances within young children's reach.

Recent research sponsored by UNICEF shows that many Vietnamese don't adequately appreciate these common household dangers, and therefore don't take adequate measures to protect their children from some very real threats they face.

Mrs. Khan also encouraged the Government to include prevention efforts focused on landmines and unexploded ordnance in its national child injury prevention efforts, noting that over 38,000 people have been killed by unexploded ordnance and landmines since the end of the American War, with almost twice that many incurring serious injuries.

Last year the Government introduced a National Policy on Injury Prevention to save lives and enhance Viet Nam's development. Since that time relevant ministries and mass organisations have been actively formulating and implementing plans to stem the tide of accident-related injuries throughout the land.

UNICEF has committed US\$ 10 million in support of the Government's injury prevention efforts, with UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office providing additional technical support. UNICEF supports injury prevention efforts through numerous programme activities, including early childhood development, education, health, child protection, emergency, landmine/unexploded ordnance, water and sanitation projects



The National Conference was organised by the Ministry of Health with technical and financial support from UNICEF.

*For further information, please contact:*

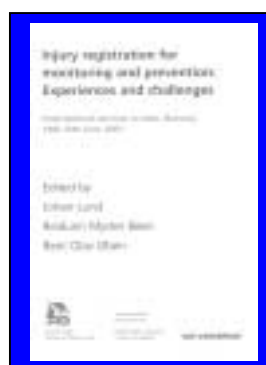
**Trinh Anh Tuan**  
*Communication Officer*  
935-0028 x 234

**Jason Rush**  
*Assistant Communication Officer*  
**UXO/Landmine Programme Co-ordinator**  
(844) 935-0028 x248

Visit the UNICEF Viet Nam Web site at [www.unicef.org.vn](http://www.unicef.org.vn)

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## Injury registration for monitoring and prevention: *Experiences and challenges*



The report from the international seminar in Oslo, Norway, 14<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> June 2001. The seminar focused on the health based injury registration in big cities. Edited by Johan Lund, Reidun Myster Beier and Bent Olav Olsen.

The report can be downloaded by clicking:

<http://www.tryggelokalsamfunn.no/getfile.php/26999.424/Seminarrapport.pdf>

**The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Safe Communities**  
**March 18-20, 2003, Hong Kong SAR, China**  
[www.safety2003.org.hk](http://www.safety2003.org.hk)

The Occupational Safety and Health Council is hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Safe Communities on March 18-20, 2003. The annual conference will be held concurrently with the 2003 Safety and Health Expo as a worldwide effort to promote awareness and education of injury prevention and control. Two communities in Hong Kong will be designated as the international safe communities on March 18, 2003 with the Chief Executive of the HKSAR the Honourable Tung Chee-wah officiating.

Deadline for abstract is extended to : **31 Dec 2002**

Budget accommodation could be arranged around USD45.00 per night at University Student Hall. Please contact the conference manager for details:

The Swire Travel Ltd

Tel: 852 2968 0222

Fax: 852 2590 0099

Email: [safety2003@oshc.org.hk](mailto:safety2003@oshc.org.hk)

Conference website : [www.safety2003.org.hk](http://www.safety2003.org.hk)

Organizer: Occupational Safety and Health Council [www.oshc.org.hk](http://www.oshc.org.hk)

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS\*\*\*\*\***

The editors must hear from you so that Safe Community Weekly News can effectively serve as a medium of communication for Safe Community Network members, and those whom are interested in injury prevention and Community safety promotion.

We are soliciting contributions from all members who have information relevant to the Safe Community Network. There are a number of specific items we are seeking:

- Information on new designated communities, affiliated centres and their activities;
- Announcement of conferences or seminars in Safe community, injury prevention and related subjects;
- Calls for papers by journals and book editors;
- Announcements of new appointments and promotions;
- Articles describing activities or new initiatives at your community, institution, Centre or firm (perhaps describing your departmental or university programs in safety promotion, discussing new practices, methods, and tools used in Injury prevention and community safety promotion, describing new governmental policy initiatives / programs, and so forth).

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

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

project leader "Safe Community"

Phone: +47 770 27 138 / 971 44 182

Fax: +47 770 27 101

E-mail: [yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no](mailto:yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no)

<http://www.harstad.kommune.no/om-harstad/Safe-Com-eng.htm>  
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