



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



**WHO COLLABORATING  
CENTRE**  
ON  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

## SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

NO. 9  
March 2003

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

Welcome to the ninth 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:

- **AFFILIATED CENTRE: Centre for Childhood Injury Epidemiology and Prevention to be WHO SC Affiliated Support Centre? Czech.**
- **PROGRAMS: Safety Promotion in Three Villages, Taiwan.**
- **CONFERENCE: 5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Safe Community Conference, Finland.  
First Brazilian and Mercosul Congress , Brazil  
12<sup>th</sup> Int. Safe Community Conference, Hong Kong, China**

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### **Centre for Childhood Injury Epidemiology and Prevention in Czech Republic to be designated as an Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre?**

At the Charles University hospital of Motol and its Dept of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Chair Assoc Professor Karel Dohnal in 1997 the Centre for Childhood Injury Epidemiology and Prevention was established.



The Centre for Childhood Injury Epidemiology and Prevention



**Chair Assoc Professor Karel Dohnal**



**The Director Dr Michal Grivna**

The Director Dr Michal Grivna is internationally well-known in the field of Safety Promotion and together with Assoc Professor Veronika Benesova and Dr Petr Nencka many initiatives have been taken.



**Assoc Professor Veronika Benesova**



**Dr Petr Nencka**

A 3-year study on bicycle injuries was initiated early; a minimum data set for injuries was developed; Drowning injury study is ongoing since two years; playground safety is focus for a special study. The Centre now takes initiatives to "National Injury Prevention Days"- the third to be organised this year, involving 14 cities.

The Centre was initiating an international Seminar for Cost calculations for Safe Communities in 1999 and have now undertaken to organise the XIII International Safe Communities Conference to be held in Prague 2004.

So the Centre is certainly a worthy candidate for the Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre status within the international Safe Communities' movement!

## Safety Promotion in Three Villages (San-Mei, Shin-Mei and Cha-Shan) Of Southern Ali Mountain (Alishan)



### Geographical Background: Ali Mountain (Alishan): Home of Tsou Tribe

Like most Taiwan's 400,000 aborigines living in scattered settlements in mountain areas, Tsou tribe lives in the central part of Taiwan's mountain areas - Ali Mountain. The rugged mountain roads in the area make it difficult for Tsou people to access jobs, educations, and medications. As a result, living conditions in the area are far behind national standards.

Meanwhile, the increasing of leisure time and the improvement of road conditions bring more tourists to the beauty of the local scenic area: Da-na-yi-gu. Water activities, hiking, and camping in Da-na-yi-gu are getting popular.

### Epidemiological Mapping

Average life span of male aborigines is 62.7 years while that of Taiwanese male is 72.7 years. Average life span of female aborigines is 72.3 years while that of Taiwanese female is 78.4 years. Only 0.3 doctor/1000 people in the aboriginal community.

Accidents and dangerous road conditions in the mountains and frequent cases of drinking and driving among aborigines contribute accidents to the leading causes of death among aborigines.

### CYCH's works on health and safety promotion in the area

Since Dr. Mercy Ditmanson, the founder of Chia-Yi Christian Hospital (CYCH), started its medical services in Chia-Yi city- about 50 km away from Ali Mountain Indigenous communities, he and CYCH have been organizing many medical service teams to the areas.

By the year 2000, funded by governmental health promotion projects, CYCH has been working with residents in the seven major Tsou villages to establish Ali Mountain Tribal Health Development Center (ATHDC). With the help from community volunteer groups, the ATHDC, governed by a cross-sectional committee mainly composed by native people, has been providing important context to build relationships among residence, to organize community-based health and safety promotion programs, and to achieve results.



### ATHDC's success on alcohol control program

Shiau-mi-jiou -a kind of whiskey made of local millet- is widely used in various tribal rituals and is an important part of Tsou culture. ATHDC's alcohol control program did not condemn liquor drinking for all of the health problems. Instead, the program encourage Tsou people to restore their traditional shiau-mi-jiou culture which is to drink in a respectful, graceful, and healthy manner.

### Characteristics of ATHDC's alcohol control Program



- Launch several successful public awareness campaigns to inform local people.
- Host Liquor Appreciation festival: liquors consumption with restraint and not being intoxicated
- Provide tips of how to keep sober after drinking liquors
- Mobilize friends, family members and community volunteers to provide alcoholics and their family relief from the damage caused by alcoholism.

### Further effort on Community Safety

CYCH hopes to work with ATHDC to further develop Ali Mountain indigenous community into a WHO-model-based safe community. We hope to successfully reduce accidents related injuries and death and continue to help Tsou people develop a safe and prosperous community.

## Design and Initiation

1. **Creation of working group**
  - a) Creating a working group comprised with neighborhood leaders, staffs of village health office, school teachers, and volunteer groups etc.
  - b) Mobilize community participation by using ATHDC's existing network of contacts.
2. **Collect data**
  - a) Working with Bureau of Health Promotion to develop data collecting networks
  - b) Keep the local working group well trained and well focused to maintain data accuracy.
3. **Formulate intervention program**
  - a) Applying appropriate theories to further analyzing factors and phases of accidents & injuries
  - b) Formulate different levels of prevention works based on available data.

Gain media publicity as support for potential intervention programs or policies.

## Some initial ideas for injury preventions

1. Work with local tourism industry (Hotel, B&B, restaurant) to provide tourists safety information and to improve safety infrastructure
2. Install an ambulance emergency transportation system

The area has active volunteer groups and vigorous health promotion programs. We hope to take existing advantages to implement well planned and effective safety promotion programs and build the area a safer and healthier community

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# 5. Nordic Safe Community Conference.

26 – 29 august 2003,

Helsinki, Finland.

[www.safe2003.net](http://www.safe2003.net)

**Abstracts can be submitted still during March.**

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First Brazilian and Mercosul Congress of Promotional  
Strategies for the Prevention and Control of Accidents,  
Suicides and Violence

23-26 June 2003

Porto Alegre - Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil

[www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br](http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br)

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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.

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

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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