

Safe Community Movement in Suwon, South Korea

Suwon, the capital city of Kyunggi Province, has a population of 930,000 people. It is located approximately 45 minutes south of Seoul, the capital city of South Korea. Suwon's City Government accepted a Safe Community Promotion Project in 1998. Since 1999, the Department of Emergency Medicine at Ajou University Hospital has been running the project in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Community Safe Promotion at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Based on the biostatistics of Suwon over the past few years, about 2,800 citizens die each year. On average there are 410 deaths due to injury each year, which makes injury the third leading cause of death (following cardiovascular disease and neoplasm). Within the overall injury category, road-traffic crash and intentional self-harm (suicide) are the two most frequent causes of death due to injury, at 35% and 25% respectively.

Over the past two years, we have performed community-based studies of child-safety car seats, falls among the elderly, injuries to children at home, cases of acute chemical poisoning, suicide attempts, etc. Some of our findings were presented at the 10th International Conference on Safe Communities in Alaska, U.S.A. In Suwon, we have been attempting to establish injury-surveillance systems on the basis of medical records of fatal injuries and information on hospital admissions from emergency departments. We have been implementing a variety of injury-prevention programmes in Suwon since March 2001. Based on analysis of injury data, injury-prevention programmes have been designed to cover both all aspects of the injury problem (including road safety, suicide prevention, and home safety) and the implementation of environmental risk-reduction measures.

Rates of helmet and safety-belt use have been monitored bimonthly. For children of elementary-school ages and their parents, educational programmes for home, road, and school safety have been provided. Among the elderly, in addition to balance



Professor Leif Svanström visited Suwon on two occasions – March 25-31 and November 5-8, 2000. He met the Mayor of Suwon and the initiators of the Suwon Safe Community Movement. Left to Right: Dr. Chan Ho Kim, Mayor Jae Douk Sim, Professor Leif Svanström, Vice Mayor Insuk Han, Professor Joon Pil Cho.

training, anti-slip socks will be distributed, and grip bars installed in toilets, to reduce fall-related injuries. A Suicide Prevention Centre will provide telephone counselling 24 hours a day, and group or family therapy will be offered to persons having made suicide attempts. To promote awareness in the community of the injury problem, active instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be given to laypersons.

Suwon is on its way to becoming a Safe Community. All of us are only too well aware that it may not be easy to get the citizens of a large city such as Suwon actively involved in community programmes. To share our experiences with other Safe Communities and learn from theirs, we will host the First Asian Regional Conference on Safe Communities from February 25 to 27 in 2002.

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Conferences

1st Asian Regional Safe Community Conference 25-27 February 2002

Suwong, South Korea

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<http://www.safesuwon.or.kr>

11th International and 5th National Conference on Safe Communities

7-9 May 2002

Rainy River District of NW Ontario, Canada

For information: Jeannette Cawston
2002 WHO Safe Communities Conference Coordinator
400 Scott Street, Fort Frances, Ontario,
Canada P9A 1H2

Phone Toll Free: 1-800-465-8502

E-Mail: info@who2002.com

Preliminary program at: www.who2002.com

1st National Injury Prevention Conference 31 October - 2 November 2001

Wellington, New Zealand

Weaving the Strands: Collaborating, Coordinating
and Creating a Safety Culture

For information: The Conference Organiser
Weaving the Strands Conference

PO Box 10-612, Wellington, New Zealand

Fax: + 64-4-473 8042

XVIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 26-31 May 2002

Vienna, Austria

For information: AUVA, Kongressbüro
Adalbert-Stifter Strasse 65

A-1200 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1-33 111 469

E-mail: safety2000@auva.sozvers.at

<http://www.safety2002.at>

Injury Prevention 2001 25-28 September

Warrnambool, Australia

Incorporating the: 5th Annual Australian Injury
Prevention and Control Conference and the
4th Annual Farm Injury Prevention Conference

For information: Injury Prevention 2001
Conference Secretariat, Glenormiston College
PMB 6200, Terang, VIC 3264 Australia

Phone: +61-3-5557 8200, Fax: +61-3-5557 8268

E-mail: injury-prevention@unimelb.edu.au

<http://www.injuryprevention2001.com>

World Congress on Drowning: prevention, rescue and treatment of drowning victims 26-27 June 2002

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

For information:

Mrs Kim Postma, c/o Consumer Safety Institute,
PO Box 75169, 1070 AD Amsterdam

Fax: + 31-20-5114510, E-mail: secretariat@drowning.nl

<http://www.drowning.nl>

International Symposium on Mining Science and Safety Technology

16-18 April 2002

Jiaozuo, China

For information: Jing Guoxun, Prof. and Dr.
General Secretary of 2002 ISMSST
Dept. of Resources and Materials

Jiaozuo Institute of Technology (JZIT)

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