

Working Together

Noarlunga and Sherpur Safe Communities

During September 2001, Noarlunga Towards A Safe Community was delighted to sponsor a visit from Dr Harun Or Rashid from Sherpur, Bangladesh.

Since 1990 Noarlunga, as a member of the WHO Safe Communities Network, has been involved in the development and implementation of a range of innovative community injury prevention programs. The Noarlunga Towards a Safe Community program is being undertaken in the City of Onkaparinga in South Australia. The program strives to address all forms of injury, intentional and non-intentional, through the use of a cooperative regional approach.

Dr Harun is the field coordinator of the Sherpur Safe Community, located in rural Bangladesh. Sherpur is currently preparing its application for membership of the WHO Safe Communities Network.

The initiative arose as a result of the visit of Community Safety Consultant, Steve Parker, and colleague Mary Morriss, to the 9th International Conference on Safe Communities held in Dhaka during 2000. Dr Harun was also attending the conference and generously provided a unique insight into the Bangladesh people and culture, as well as organizing visits for us to rural hospitals and work sites. Since the conference strong friendships have developed with exchange of e-mails and educational resources for students and safety resources for workers.

During his three week stay Dr Harun attended the Healthy Cities & Communities Short Course at the Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia. The one week course is run through the Department of Public Health at Flinders University and provides a critical understanding of concepts behind, and practices associated with, Healthy Cities and similar projects in Australia and overseas. The annual course attracts a large number of overseas participants.

Noarlunga and Sherpur share a belief in the effectiveness of community-based, practical grass-roots injury prevention programs such as preventing injury among young people and the health and safety of workers in small business. Dr Harun made a number of visits to relevant agencies. These included: Visiting KidSafe, Australia's national child injury prevention organisation; Consultations with specialists on the treatment of venomous snake bite; Meeting with safety officers from the South Australian Government's WorkCover worker injury prevention pro-



Dr Harun with Richard Hicks, Director Community Health, Noarlunga Health Services & Steve Parker.

gram; Visiting and talking to students from local Primary and Secondary schools and Discussions with local roofing tile manufacturers.

Dr Harun made a presentation of his work with Sherpur Safe Community at the Healthy Cities Noarlunga Annual General Meeting. Over 80 representatives from agencies and the local community attended the meeting.

Noarlunga Towards A Safe Community is extremely keen to further develop links between Noarlunga and Sherpur, with the visit being another important stage in building a collaborative, long-lasting liaison between our two organisations and communities.

During 2002, Sherpur and Noarlunga Safe Communities are working together on developing an innovative eye injury prevention program for wood and metal trade workers in small business. This joint venture will involve the development and use of educational safety information, signage and eye safety protection equipment. From research into workplace injury data already carried out in Sherpur and Noarlunga it is interesting to note the shared injury problems in welding, metal and wood trades.

We all gained much from Harun's visit. The one concept that has stayed with Noarlunga colleagues is the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee's (BRAC) primary health care and education program and the flexibility that it affords disadvantaged young people. There is a great deal to learn from this model. Indeed, there is so much opportunity for us to learn and grow together as members of the global community. Steve Parker, Noarlunga Health Services

Conferences

14th Travelling Seminar on Safe Communities 10-21 April 2002

Vorarlberg and Vienna, Austria

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15th Travelling Seminar on Safe Communities 3-7 June 2002, Norway

Larvik, Ski, Spydeberg and Fredrikstad

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12th International Confence on Safe Communities Safety & Health Expo 2003

Conference: 18-19 March

Exhibition: 18-20 March

Hong Kong, China

Further information: Catherine Wong
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2nd International Safe Community Conference on Cost Calculation and Cost-effectiveness in Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion

11-12 June 2003

Falun, Dalarna, Sweden

Further information: Falu kommun
Agenda 21, SE-791 83 Falun, Sweden
E-mail: Carl-Erik.Nystrom@adm.falun.se

5th Nordic Safe Community Conference 26-29 August 2003

Helsinki, Finland

Further information: Merja Söderholm
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E-mail: merja.soderholm@stm.vn.fi

International Network on the Prevention of Accidents & Trauma at Work Conference 3-6 September 2002, Elsinore, Denmark

Further information: E-mail: workingonsafety@nhg.dk

Course

Important research and policy course!

3rd International Course on the Global Burden of Injury 27-31 January 2003 Stockholm, Sweden

The topic of this course is macro-level determinants of safety and their implications for prevention – policy and planning. It will be held for the third time at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. Both previous courses have attracted participants from all over the world. Particular focus this year will be on violence and self-inflicted injury, related cross-cultural issues, and on policy making. Target groups include PhD/postgraduate students and senior researchers involved in international health issues, especially related to injury and safety, as well as health and public health officials and policy-makers.

Marcello Ferrada-Noli, Professor

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Information on application forms and deadlines will soon be available at this address.

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