

Dhaka 2000 Communiqué on Safe Communities



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The 9th International Conference on Safe Communities was held at the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-28 February 2000. 293 local and foreign delegates from 19 countries participated. From the papers presented and the ensuing discussions, it became clear that injuries are a global public-health problem. While there have been some encouraging recent improvements in injury rates in certain high-income countries, the situation is fast deteriorating in many other countries, particularly in low-income ones. The conference unanimously voted to support a communiqué or declaration to present its message to members of world communities (including policy makers, politicians, professionals and local-community leaders) so as to support the further advancement and promotion of the Safe Community movement.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognised injuries due to accident, violence and self-intent to be a major public health problem of our time. WHO has also indicated two main strategies for the future: making nations aware of their injury problems, and focusing safety promotion at all levels (especially at local level). The Conference in Dhaka acknowledged, however, that too few nations have established strategies or national programmes for Injury Prevention/Safe Communities. Too few demonstration programmes and/or Safe Communities have

been developed to satisfy the need for practical examples to follow. WHO and its Collaborating Centres on Injury Prevention/Safety Promotion should therefore be urged to stimulate the involvement of more nations and their institutions, global organisations such as UNICEF or the World Bank, and international donor agencies and NGOs within individual countries in future work for Safe Communities.

Fazlur Rahman

The full text of the proceedings of this conference and the Dhaka Communiqué will be available on the web page:

<http://www.ki.se/phs/wcc-csp/main.html>

Travelling Seminar 2000 in Dhaka

A "Travelling Seminar" was held in Dhaka, in association with SafeComm-9. The Seminar was an excellent forum for communication about Safe Community issues from diverse perspectives. One of the key subjects raised in the Seminar was that of the application of Safe Community indicators in low-income countries.

The Seminar was enriched by participation from both high-income and low-income countries. Estonia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, The Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Vietnam and Bangladesh all took part. The theme of the Seminar was "Setting Child Safety Priority in a Safe Community Framework". This was highly relevant to the situations of many low-income countries, such as Bangladesh, in particular with regard to child rights and child-protection issues. The participants met community leaders and project administrators to exchange views on the subject in Sherpur, Cox's Bazar, Tangail, Nakla and Chittagong.

The Seminar was a great success in terms of sensitising leaders on different levels in Bangladesh on Safe Community issues. It provided a forum for mutual understanding of the views of different participating nations on injury prevention and safety promotion, and provided an opportunity to share the Safe Community project experiences of Bangladesh.

Participants also attended the workshop on Injury Control and Safety Promotion and the 5th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control in Delhi.

Nazmul Huda

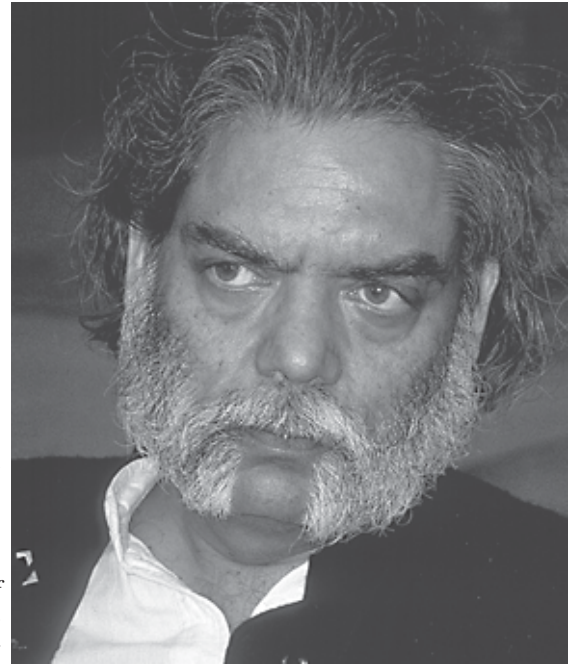
5th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, 5-8 March 2000, Delhi

The 5th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and FITT, was held in Delhi, 5-8 March 2000. The patron of the conference was the Vice President of India and Mr. Ashoke Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport. Professor V. S. Raju welcomed delegates to the inaugural session. Mr. Ashoke Joshi and Dr. Uton Muchtar Rafei, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for south-east Asia, addressed the delegates.

The Conference, the fifth in a series (of which the first four had been held in Sweden, the USA, Australia and The Netherlands respectively) was attended by over 600 delegates from 58 countries. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri K.C Pant, Vice Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India. He announced that the Planning Commission would set up a task force to suggest policies and institutional structures for injury prevention and safety promotion.

The Conference focused on all aspects of safety, including road accidents, occupational injuries, domestic and sports injuries, and intentionally inflicted injuries.

At its closing session, the Conference adopted a Delhi Declaration on People's Right to Safety. The session was addressed by Mr. Javed Chowdhry, Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Dr. Yasuhiro Suzuki, Executive Director, Social Change & Mental Health, WHO, Geneva. The Conference was sponsored by a number of national and international government organisations and industries.



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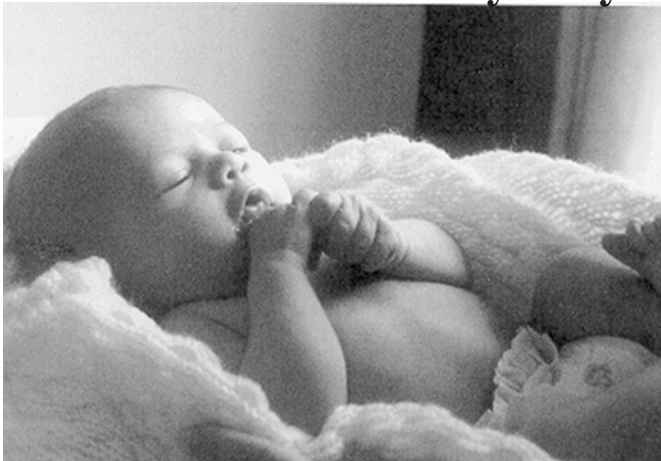
The following recognitions were presented at the conference: Best Paper; Best Poster; Best Video; International Safe Communities: Transportation Safety Partnership Award and Special Achievement Award; and the American Public Health Association, Injury Control and Emergency Health Service Section International Distinguished Career Award: to recognise an individual for outstanding dedication and leadership in injury control and emergency-health services, with contributions and achievements that have had a significant and long-term world-wide impact in the injury arena.

Dinesh Mohan

The Delhi Declaration on People's Right to Safety and the names of award winners will be available on the web site:

<http://www.ki.se/phs/wcc-csp>

A real Safe Community baby!



Joanne Vincenten, Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, Edmonton, Canada and Andrej Michalsen are happy to introduce you to their daughter Anna Franziska born 3 November 1999.

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