The 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC)
3-5 November 2021

Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards

Purpose

This brief outlines the mechanisms for the **Best COVID-19 Community Project Awards** for the 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) to be organised by the China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC and conducted as a webinar during 3-5 November 2021.

Background

The Healthy Cities approach was initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is based on the concept that the social, economic and physical environment is the key to the health of city dwellers and aims to cope with health issues that have emerged with urbanisation. In Hong Kong, the first Healthy Cities Project was initiated in Sai Kung District in 1997.

The AFHC, founded in October 2003, is a network founded on the international efforts on Healthy Cities worldwide. Its current membership comprises over 200 cities and organisations. The China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC was established in September 2007.

Since 2004, the Global Conference of the AFHC has been organised biennially except in 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The 6th Global Conference of the AFHC was held in Hong Kong from 29th October to 1st November, 2014 with "Health in All Policies" as the main theme.

The China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC will organise the upcoming Global Conference of the AFHC, namely, the 9th Global Conference of the AFHC, again. The main theme of the conference will be "**Smarter Healthy Cities beyond COVID-19**".

Mechanism for the Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards

The proposed awards, eligibility, assessment criteria and scoring process, schedule and rundown of the oral presentation and competition of the **Best**

COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards are outlined below. Award Certificate will be sent to your address shortly after the conference.

Proposed awards

During 11:45 to 13:30 hours on the third day (5ᵗʰ November, 2021), there will be a symposium entitled "**Recognition of COVID-19 Global Community Projects and Initiatives**" (Symposium II). The time allocated for Symposium II will be 1 hour and 45 minutes, for which the first 20 minutes will be allocated to a presentation by representative(s) of Hong Kong. In the remaining 1 hour and 25 minutes, representatives from selected countries and areas will each take five minutes (including two minutes for presentation and three minutes for questions and answers) to give an oral presentation on the COVID-19 community projects or initiatives in their respective country or area. The duration will be adequate for a maximum of 15-17 presentations. We have set up **TEN "Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards"** for the ten presentations with the highest scores.

Eligibility

To join the oral presentation and competition, the candidate must submit an abstract. The eligibility for the abstract to join the oral presentation and competition is as follows:

- Abstracts should be submitted using a standard electronic abstract form (Annex I).
- One candidate can only submit one abstract.
- The content of the abstract must be related to COVID-19 community projects or initiatives in a country or area. The candidate must indicate clearly the country or area.
- More than one candidate can submit abstracts on COVID-19 community projects or initiatives related to a country or administrative region. In this situation, only the candidate with the highest score attained from the judging process of the judging panel will have a chance to give an oral presentation in the conference.
- The body of the abstract should be organised as follows:
  - Provide the title and background of the project/ initiative;
  - State the objective of the project/ initiative;
  - Describe the programme content;
  - Summarise the findings/ observation; and
  - Describe the application.

- Abstracts should not exceed 350 words.
- All candidates with their abstracts accepted for oral presentation must register for the conference.
- All candidates are welcome including commercial companies but tobacco and alcohol companies are prohibited.

Candidates whose abstracts are accepted for oral presentation will be invited to give oral presentations in Symposium II.

Assessment criteria and scoring process

A set of assessment criteria (Table 1) is developed based on the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the WHO, and the assessment and scoring criteria of the poster presentation of the 6th Global Conference of the AFHC. A judging panel comprising representatives from the academia, professionals and experts in relevant fields and sectors is formed to appraise the abstracts based on this assessment criteria.

Assessment criteria	Description	Weighting
Relevance of the project/ initiative to the control and prevention of COVID-19	Whether the project effectively applied preventive and control measures of COVID-19, e.g. surveillance, case investigation and management, quarantine measures, port health measures, infection control measures, vaccination, risk communication, mental health and psychosocial support, addressing health inequalities	20%
Programme design	Whether it is well-planned and well-structured with good parameters to evaluate the outcomes	20%
Creativity and innovation	Whether the project is an innovative approach rather than conventional approach with high degree of creativity	20%
Impact of project	Whether the project has led to changes of public policies and/or service delivery models and/or health status of the population	20%
Overall presentation	Is the content clear, concise and non "jargonistic", will the oral presentation likely to be well-structured and audience engaging	20%

Table 1: Assessment criteria for appraisal of the abstracts of oral presentation for the judging panel

The judging panel will select a total of 15-17 abstracts for the oral presentation. The respective candidates will be invited for oral presentation in Symposium II. If any of the candidates cannot conduct the oral presentation, the one with the next highest score will be invited. If more than one candidate submits abstracts on COVID-19 community projects related to a single country or administrative region, only the candidate with the highest score attained from the judging process of the judging panel will have a chance to give an oral presentation in the conference.

All conference participants can vote for their favourite oral presentations after listening to all the presentations in Symposium II. Voting will take place during and close shortly after Symposium II. Each participant can vote for a maximum of TEN presentations through an online platform. For the weighting of the total score of each oral presentation, it will solely be made up of the voting results of conference participants. In this case, the scores given by the judging panel will only decide which 15-17 abstracts will be selected for oral presentation but will not contribute to the total scores. Voting by conference participants solely will decide the TEN winners of the "**Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards**".

Schedule

The proposed schedule of the oral presentation and competition is shown in Table 2.

Event	Date
Call for abstract	20 September
Deadline for abstract submission	25 October
Judging panel to provide a score for each abstract and select the 15-17 abstracts for oral presentation	27 October
Notification of acceptance of abstract	27 October
Date of oral presentation (15-17 candidates)	5 November

Voting by conference participants	
Organiser to compile the scores, identify and announce the award winners	

Table 2. Proposed schedule of the oral presentation and competition

Rundown

The proposed rundown of Symposium II, voting process and announcement of award winners is shown in Table 3.

Time	Presentation
11:45 – 12:05	Presentation on achievements in the local COVID-19 response by representative(s) of Hong Kong
12:05 – 13:30	Oral presentation by 15-17 candidates, each taking 2 minutes for presentation and 3 minutes for questions and answers
12:05 – 13:45	Online platform opens for voting by conference participants
13:45	Voting closes
16:20-16:35	China Hong Kong Chapter, AFHC : **Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards Ceremony**

Table3. Proposed rundown of Symposium II, voting process and announcement of award winners

Conclusions

The mechanisms for the **Best COVID-19 Global Community Project Awards** of the 9th Global Conference of the AFHC are using an approach to balance the opinions of judging panels and conference participants.