

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Town and city finalists bidding to be named the most “liveable communities 2012” are announced

A record number of communities from around the world have been named as finalists in the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom), the UN-backed global awards scheme for civic environmental achievement.

A continued growth in community focus on sustainability has sparked not only a record number of entries but has resulted in the highest ever number of finalists in the event’s 15 year history.

Communities are making their debut at the finals from six countries new to the award scheme. These are from; Portugal, Egypt, Peru, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Mexico and Kuwait.

After a special award was made two years ago to Medellin in Colombia, the country has another finalist for 2012, the Metropolitan area of the Aburra Valley.

Founder and chief executive Alan Smith said: “There is strong evidence that it is local government and local communities where despite the world’s economic problems, solutions are being found to improve living standards from healthy lifestyles to enhancement of the landscape – a major benchmark of the awards. These awards are a unique way of recognising the outstanding efforts being made by individuals committed to finding innovative answers to their communities problems.”

A total of 60 towns and cities, 66 Sustainable Projects and 26 Bursary Award applications have reached the finals after an initial round of judging over the summer. These go forward to the finals and awards event being hosted by Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 22nd - 26th November 2012.

Finalists this year reflect a wider geographic spread than ever before with entries from across the five continents.

Previous success stories include a project to “green” Johannesburg with a million trees which won a LivCom Award ahead of South Africa’s World Cup football bid.

Last year's "winners" ranged from the small town of Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm in Germany (popn 23,000) won praise for the quality of its environmental best practice while at the other extreme, Nanjing in China (popn 6.4million) collected a gold award and received a commendation for its focus on arts and heritage.

Submissions annually cover a range of key areas such as healthy lifestyles, lifelong learning, local transportation and communication issues, urban planning, environmental engineering, heritage management, community safety and security, economic development, and community sustainability.

Alan Smith added: "One of the best aspects of bringing experts in the field together is that despite the fact that they come from a range of different cultures and countries, the problems they face are similar. LivCom is not only about recognising achievement, it is about sharing best practice and there is growing evidence to suggest that since the development of the awards, taking part in LivCom has benefitted and improved the quality of life for people around the world."

ENDS

**Note to editors:**

***The International Awards for Liveable Communities (The LivCom Awards) was launched in 1997 and is endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme, with which it partners an MoU.***

***LivCom is non-political, embracing all nations and cultures, and over 50 countries are represented within the Awards. LivCom Awards are made annually in three categories covering Whole Cities, Sustainable Projects and a Bursary Award.***

***The LivCom Awards are the only forum in which International best practice may be observed and developed, and participation in the Awards is an investment in the future of a community. Observers are welcome to attend. For details please email LivCom Head Office on [info@livcomawards.com](mailto:info@livcomawards.com)***

***Media representatives are welcome to attend the awards. For further details see [www.livcomawards.com](http://www.livcomawards.com) or for media enquiries please contact [livcommedia@gmail.com](mailto:livcommedia@gmail.com)***

*LivCom Awards 2012*

**Finalists**

**Venue: Al Ain, UAE, 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Category A: Population up to 20,000**

Abbeyleix, Co. Laois County Council, Ireland  
Baishihsu, Chinese Taipei  
City of Manzuru, Japan  
City of Serpa, Portugal  
Dujia Community, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei  
Galesti Commune, Republic of Moldova  
Limen Village - Zhongzheng Community, Chinese Taipei  
Moynalty Village, Kells, Co. Meath, Ireland  
Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia  
Prachatice, Czech Republic  
Tangbu, Chinese Taipei  
Town of Rosemere, Canada

### **Category B: Population 20,001 to**

**75,000** Chrudim, Czech Republic  
City of Greater Geraldton, Australia  
City of Kladno, Czech Republic  
Community of the City of Puschino, Russia  
Dibba City, United Arab Emirates  
Kogarah City Council, Sydney, Australia  
Meinong District, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei  
Moriya City, Japan  
Oleiros City Council, Spain  
Riviera Beach, USA  
Siwa Oasis, Egypt  
Statutory City of Jihlava, Czech Republic  
Central-Western District, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei  
Yangcheng District, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei

### **Category C: Population**

#### **75,001 to 150,000**

Broadland, England  
County of Wicklow, Ireland  
Masdar City, United Arab Emirates  
Mikolow Town and County, Poland  
Municipalidad de Miraflores, Peru  
Putrajaya, Malaysia  
Sangju City, South Korea  
South East County Gran Canaria, Spain  
Xinying District, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei  
Yingge District, New Taipei City,

Chinese Taipei

**Category D: Population**

**150,001 to 400,000**

Batangas City, Philippines  
Chang'an, Dongguan, PR China  
Cherkasy City Council, Ukraine  
City of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine  
Jin Cheng City, PR China  
Kuching City, Malaysia  
Nilufer Municipality, Turkey  
Paranaque City, Philippines  
Siena Province, Italy  
Tamsui and Bali, Chinese Taipei  
Wellington, New Zealand

**Category E: Population over**

**400,000**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Changzhou City, PR China  
Cheongju City, South Korea  
Donetsk City Council, Ukraine  
Greater Ankara Municipality, Turkey  
Kumamoto City, Japan  
Metropolitan Area of the Aburra Valley, Colombia  
New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei  
Puebla, Mexico  
Suining City, PR China  
Suwon City, South Korea  
Taichung City, Chinese Taipei

Observers at the Finals are welcome. For details please contact the LivCom Head Office,  
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