

PRESS RELEASE

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Eleven new countries represented among LivCom 2011 finalists

Cities from eleven new countries have reached the finals of this year's International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) finals in Songpa, South Korea (27 - 31 October 2011). The debutants at the largest finals in the history of LivCom are; Moldova, Lithuania, Vietnam, Malaysia, Turkey, Taiwan, Mozambique, Jordan, Italy, Indonesia and Brazil.

A total 65 countries will be represented at the awards, now in their 14th year. Most significantly, the vast majority of cities to reach this year's finalists are new to the awards.

Over a three day period, an experienced global judging panel will assess communities in two categories – as whole cities or by individual projects. The hotly contested whole city competition, regarded as the “Oscars” of the world of local environmental management, is divided into five population categories; up to 20,000 people; between 20,001 and 75,000 people; 75,001-150,000; 150,001-400,000 and 400,001 and over. The latter, has been the fastest growing category at this year's finals with 13 major global cities lining up for scrutiny.

In addition judges searching for the most liveable communities in the world make awards according to six key criteria; enhancement of the natural and built landscape; arts, culture and heritage; environmental best practice; community participation and empowerment; healthy lifestyles and strategic planning.

Alan Smith, chief executive and founder of the LivCom Awards said: “We are delighted that cities from 11 new countries have made this year's finals. The wider level of participation in the event demonstrates that the major challenges in local environmental management faced across the world are being met

positively and with a degree of innovation. Reaching the finals of LivCom is an indication of the importance a community places on the environment and is something to be celebrated.”

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