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PRESS RELEASE

Entries open for International Awards for Liveable Communities Finalists 2012

Entries are now open for finalists for the 2012 International Awards for Liveable Communities.

Now in their 16th year, the prestigious LivCom International Awards are devoted to championing and rewarding sustainable development, quality of life and environmental best practice in communities around the world.

The 15th Finals of the 2011 LivCom Awards held in Songpa, Seoul, Korea last October saw the coming together of representatives of more than 70 cities from around the globe.

Finalists were involved in over 110 Presentations demonstrating examples of and extending the boundaries of International Best Practice in respect of the local environment.

Those qualifying for the finals included cities from Spain, Belgium, Moldova, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Italy, Finland, France, Poland and Turkey, from Asia, China, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Jordan and the UAE, from Australasia, Australia, from the Americas, the USA and Brazil, and from Africa, Mozambique and South Africa.

Alan Smith, Chief Executive and founder of LivCom said: "The 2011 LivCom was a truly historic event, as never before anywhere in the world has there been such a concentration of International Best Practice and a coming together

of Civic Leaders, local technical staff and local citizens from so many communities to share knowledge.

“LivCom is both an Awards event and a major learning experience. Delegates are able to observe the presentations of other communities showing how a city was addressing challenges facing a diverse range of communities. Finalists quickly appreciated that the challenges that they faced are not unique but are the same, or similar to those faced by other communities in other countries and cultures.”

At the awards finals, which have been held every year since 1997, judges evaluate the approach to individual criteria for sustainable development – enhancement of the landscape, heritage management, environmentally-sensitive practices, community sustainability and planning for the future.

The finals, which see representatives of the various towns and cities make their case to an international jury, last for five days, culminating in an awards ceremony. The closing date for entries to the 2012 finals is 31st May.

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. 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.