

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Local government leaders from more than 60 communities gather in Xiamen, China, for LivCom finals

Representatives of more than 60 communities from around the world will gather in Xiamen, China this week (28 November–2 December) for the finals of the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom).

Communities travelling to the coastal garden city of Xiamen on the south east coast of China will share experiences and expertise as well as learning more about the environmental achievements of the host city. The three-days of presentations will conclude on Monday 2nd December with a prestigious United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) seminar.

The results of the judges deliberations on the world's most liveable communities of 2013 will be announced on Monday evening at an awards ceremony in the city.

Delegates will make the case for their towns and cities before a panel of world renowned experts in the field of municipal and environmental management.

A continued growth in community focus on sustainability is seeing a rising number of entries for the awards. Finalists this year reflect a wider geographic spread than ever before with entries from across the globe.

Mayor of Xiamen, Mr Liu Keqing, said: "For many years, Xiamen has been seeking harmony between society, economy and nature. The people of Xiamen are encouraged and empowered to actively participate in urban and community development.

"Through its own efforts and international collaboration, Xiamen has grown into a friendly community with healthy ecological system, a livable environment, high living standards and a strong public awareness of the environment.

"Xiamen is proud to host the Finals of the 2013 International Awards for Liveable Communities, and will endeavour to provide delegations with a memorable event. "

Founder and chief executive Alan Smith said: “We are looking forward to a highly competitive, educational and informative finals event with some of the leading innovators in the world going before the judges.

“As well as sharing knowledge, 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 42 towns and cities, 52 Sustainable Projects and six Bursary Award applications have reached the finals.

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**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.***

*LivCom Awards 2013*

**Finalists**

**Venue: Xiamen, China, 28th November to 2nd December  
2013**



