

PRESS RELEASE

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New international judge joins LivCom 2013 finals panel

A new international judge is to join the panel of experts reviewing the work of finalists at the finals of the UN-backed International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) Xiamen, China (28th November- 2nd December 2013).

Kaarin Taipale (Finland) an architect and sustainable development and urban studies expert, will join the distinguished panel of international judges at LivCom 2013 next month.

Ms Taipale, 65, is currently Senior Researcher at Centre for Knowledge and Innovation Research of the Helsinki School of Economics (CKIR) at the Aalto University School of Economics, in Helsinki, Finland.

From 2006-2010 she was chair and coordinator of the UN-initiated Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction with Finland as lead country.

The Task Force advocated the need for local and national policies and legislation to secure greater sustainability in the construction, use and maintenance of the built environment.

A Finnish national, Kaarin Taipale studied architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland, and also obtained a master's degree in historic preservation from Columbia University in New York, USA. Her areas of expertise are urban sustainability, and the impact of globalization on cities. She

obtained her PhD from the Helsinki University of Technology with her dissertation: *Cities for sale: How economic globalization transforms the local public sphere*.

She was awarded the Order of the White Rose of Finland, Chevalier of the 1st Class, ordained by the President of Finland in 1999.

Kaarin Taipale was a member of the global Holcim Awards jury in 2006. She was a member of the Concluding Panel Discussion at the inaugural Holcim Forum 2004 in Zurich and was a member of the Academic Committee for the 2nd International Holcim Forum 2007 in Shanghai.

The winning communities in the global awards scheme for civic environmental achievement will be announced at a ceremony in Xiamen, China on Monday 2nd December.

Founder and chief executive Alan Smith said: “We are delighted to welcome Kaarin Taipale to LivCom’s distinguished judging panel. She will bring with her unrivalled experience and is someone who commands huge respect in her sector. The role of the judges at the finals is all-important – they have to really get under the skin of a city or project proposal and understand its true benefit and legacy.

A total of 42 towns and cities, 52 Sustainable Projects and six Bursary Award applications have reached the finals.

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.

LivCom Awards 2013

Finalists

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

Category A: Population up to 20,000

Agueda, Portugal

Birdhill, Republic of Ireland

Ewang Community, Yilan County, Chinese Taipei
Fu Xing Community, Ruisui Township, Hualien County, Chinese Taipei
Guan-Fu Community, Taichung City, Chinese Taipei
Inis Oirr, Republic of Ireland
Jiantan Township, Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
Julianstown and District Community Association, Republic of Ireland
Learmont Community Development Group Ltd, Northern Ireland
Longshan Community, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei
Pinxi District, New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
Togo Community, Houbi District, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei
Zhuzihu Community, Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

Category B: Population 20,001 to 75,000

City of Coral Gables, USA
City of Grande-Synthe, France
Community of Szentes Town, Hungary
Cyberjaya, Malaysia
Dashu District, Kaohsiung City, Chinese Taipei
Goseong-gun, South Korea
Jiaoxi Township, Yilan County, Chinese Taipei
Jihlava, Czech Republic
Marathon Municipality, Greece
Municipality of Kaposvar, Hungary
Grand Xi-Chuan Community, Taichung City, Chinese Taipei
Utena City, Lithuania
Wanli District, New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
Wiener Neustadt, Austria

Category C: Population 75,001 to 150,000

Bruges, Belgium
Daya District, Taichung City, Chinese Taipei
Gushan District, Kaohsiung City, Chinese Taipei
Royal Commission of Yanbu, Saudi Arabia
Sanxia District, New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

Category D: Population 150,001 to 400,000

Muharraq Town, Bahrain

City of Miami Beach, USA

East District, Tainan City, Chinese Taipei

Hualien County, Chinese Taipei

Tamsui District, New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

Category E: Population over 400,000

City Government of Pasig, Philippines

Donetsk City Council, Ukraine

Miaoli, Chinese Taipei

New Taipei City Government, Chinese Taipei

Regional Administration of Sardinia, Italy

Seo-gu, Daejeon Metropolitan City, South Korea

Suwon City, South Korea