

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 29 November 2013

EMBARGO: Immediate Release

LivCom 2013 Awards open in coastal “garden city” of Xiamen, China

The seventeenth UN-backed International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) were declared open tonight (20.00hrs local time) as delegates were welcomed to Xiamen, the event’s 2013 host city.

Greeting delegates from more than 60 cities and towns from across the world, Mr Liu Keqing said this was a proud moment for Xiamen, known as the coastal “garden city” of Fujian.

He said: “Xiamen is proud to host the Finals of the 2013 International Awards for Liveable Communities, and will endeavour to provide you with a memorable event.

“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 liveable environment, high living standards and a strong public awareness of the environment.”

With ambitions to become known as a famous international garden city, the city boasts exquisite scenery and an urban landscape that is well integrated with the green and mountainous hinterland.

Livcom 2013 is taking place at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Xiamen, where over the next three days delegates will begin making the case for their towns and cities before a panel of experts in the field of municipal and environmental management.

LivCom founder Alan Smith said: “We have received a very warm welcome from our hosts and are looking forward to a fantastic few days

sharing ideas and best practice with some of the most forward-thinking communities from around the world.

The winning cities in the awards scheme for civic environmental achievement will be announced on Monday, December 2nd.

The LivCom Award, launched in 1997 and endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme, is non-political and embraces all nations and cultures from around the world. The awards are made annually in three categories covering whole cities and sustainable projects along with a bursary award.

The cities have been enlisted for the award for their efforts to improve landscape, arts, culture, and heritage, and followed the best environmental practices along with offering the best health and life facilities.

About LivCom:

The LivCom Awards were launched internationally in 1997 and are endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the scheme is run as a UK Registered Charity. LivCom Awards are made in three categories covering Whole City, Sustainable Projects and a Bursary Award which sees match funding of £10,000 go to the winning project. A new country has been represented at the LivCom Awards in each of the past eleven years, and now more 50 countries are regularly represented. Political delegates confirm that being exposed to the presentations of cities from other countries and cultures has provided many policy ideas that could be effectively introduced in their own community.