
**HOUSTON-KARACHI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD
FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

WASHINGTON, DC – Houston-Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA) has won Sister Cities International's (SCI) 2016 Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance for a city with a population greater than 500,000. The 2016 Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

During the summer of 2015, the southern part of Pakistan was hit by an extreme heat wave. Temperatures reached as high as 120°F and resulted in the deaths of over 1,500 people. In Karachi, a city of over 20 million people, water resources that were already challenged became increasingly strained during this time. Citizens of Karachi typically rely on tanker trucks to deliver water to resident's homes rather than having access to clean water that is pumped directly. During the heat wave, the increased demand for water resulted in a major shortage of clean water to be delivered and tanker trucks to deliver the water that was available. This resulted in thousands of people having no access to clean water. As such, HKSCA, in the spirit of sister city values, knew it needed to be a part of helping Karachi find a solution. In particular, HKSCA knew that finding a sustainable solution would be key in alleviating the problem. In addition to providing respite for as many citizens as possible with the sponsorship of a water pump in Karachi, HKSCA hoped that its involvement would raise awareness and inspire other organizations to replicate similar projects. Thus, access to water for each citizen of Karachi could become a reality, one community at a time.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 16 during SCI's 60th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC.

SCI's 60th anniversary celebration will include an [Annual Conference](#) and [Youth Leadership Summit](#) in Washington, DC July 13-16, 2016. The celebration will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Peace through People," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 570 member communities with 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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