



SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Promoting people-to-people exchanges

October 2015

Planning continues for 2016 Sister Cities Conference in Nelson: 28-30 April 2016 at the Rutherford Hotel, Nelson

Nelson City Council and their Sister Cities Co-ordinating Group continue to plan for next years conference. The 2016 Sister Cities Conference is scheduled for 28-30 April 2016. The theme “Connecting People – Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future” allows a great opportunity to acknowledge some significant Sister City milestones. These include the 40-year anniversary of the Nelson-Miyazu relationship & 35 years since the establishment of Sister Cities New Zealand. If you or your organisation has a special anniversary in 2016 please advise Sister Cities New Zealand (admin@sistercities.org.nz) so it can be recognised.

Lyndal McMeeking, Conference Coordinator, 2016 Sister Cities Conference
scnz.2016.nelson@gmail.com

Logo Competition winner announced

Caroline Pope, of Christchurch, is the winner of the recent competition to design a new logo for Sister Cities New Zealand.

The prize of \$500 was kindly sponsored by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

“My logo design for Sister Cities New Zealand focuses on the idea of person to person exchange, locally, nationally and internationally.

It depicts people reaching out across the world to other cities, promoting connection, friendship and understanding through different cultures and lives.

The koru symbolise Maori and New Zealand culture, and the idea of being proud of our own country.

Having lived overseas in Japan and Canada, I've seen first hand how important connections between countries are and what difference cultural understanding and friendship can make in the lives of people involved.

Whether these exchanges are in relation to business, government, education, special interest or cultural matters, they always make a positive impact on the people taking part in the exchange.

I have provided two colour palettes for this logo: a black and grey option to signify New Zealand's silver fern, and a blue and grey option to signify global unity. These can be used for different applications or one may be chosen to be the primary usage.”

Caroline Pope



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First New Zealand China Mayoral Forum a great success

Philip Shackleton
LGNZ

The ground-breaking New Zealand China Mayoral Forum held in Xiamen City, China on 6-7 September has been deemed a great success, with significant outcomes resulting from the event in just a matter of weeks.

Paving the way as the first of its kind, the Forum led by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) President Lawrence Yule and hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries focused on trade and investment opportunities, in particular development prospects within New Zealand's tourism, education and primary industries.

Outcomes so far include:

- The signing of the Xiamen declaration, signed by New Zealand and Chinese mayors, detailing the Forum's intent to improve relations and work towards the advancement of economic development outcomes for the people of both countries. The declaration will help to build New Zealand's sub-national trade and investment strategy, supporting LGNZ's regional development policy.
- Auckland's economic development agency ATEED (Auckland Events, Tourism and Economic Development) signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese innovation incubator InnoHub, creating opportunities for a NZD\$20 million investment in Auckland companies and greater exposure for Auckland businesses to the Asia-Pacific rim market.
- Investment meetings held between New Zealand delegations and Chinese investors as a result of the Forum.
- The sharing of best practice amongst New Zealand delegates during the programme.
- Launch of a New Zealand corner at the Seashine Group supermarket promoting New Zealand wine and food products.

- A photo exhibition that will be displayed in the Xiamen Art Gallery for three months showcasing New Zealand cities and towns.

With 70 New Zealand delegates attending, including 12 mayors, the New Zealand Ambassador to China John McKinnon, and business and education leaders from across the country; the Forum represents the largest delegation of New Zealand civic leaders to have ever visited China.

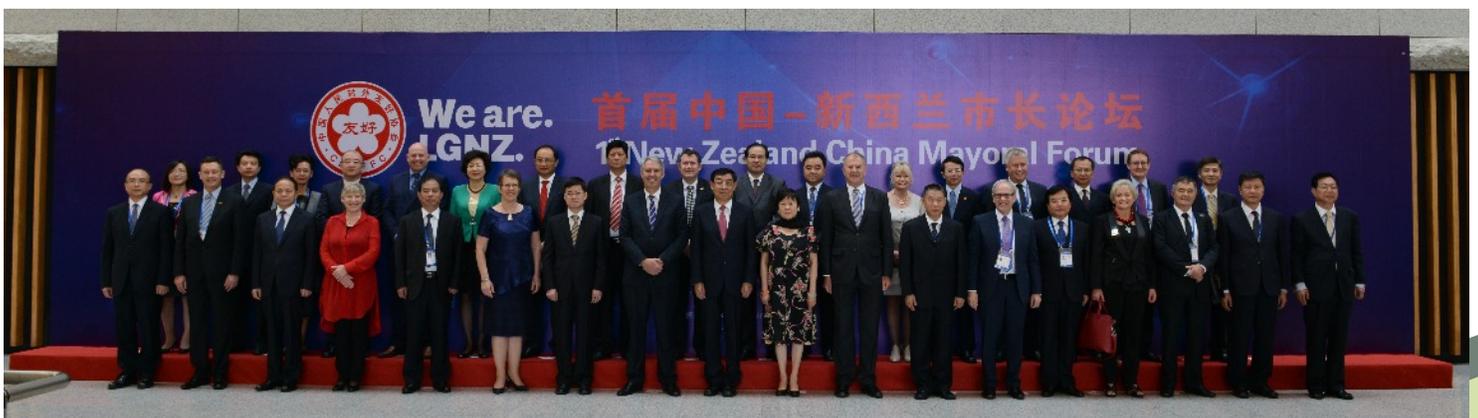
Of special note is the significance of the mayors from China that also attended. There were five large cities represented, including Ningbo (7.6million), Qingdao (9million), Wuhan (10.3million), Guangzhou (16million) and Shenzhen (10.7million). Mr McKinnon said having this number of influential Chinese mayors at such a Forum was a significant endorsement of both the Forum itself and the New Zealand-China relationship.

Mr Yule also commended the event's success, saying the visit shows commitment from New Zealand's local government to developing strong regional economies nationwide.

"China is our biggest trading partner and as such our relationship with them is extremely important to our economy. Current projections show China's outbound investment is estimated to exceed US\$1.25 trillion over the next 10 years and we want to ensure that New Zealand, and most importantly our regions, attract some of this investment," says Mr Yule.

"Since the 2008 signing of the free trade agreement with China, New Zealand exports have risen from NZ\$2.2 billion to NZ\$8.3 billion. The deepening of this relationship at a sub-national level opens the door for further trade and investment."

Planning is already underway for the next Forum to be held in New Zealand in 2017.



Auckland Mayor visits China



The New Zealand Mayoral delegation in Xiamen



Mayor Len Brown of Auckland with Mayor Chen Jianhua of Guangzhou.

Auckland's Mayor, Len Brown, visited China in September 2015. First stop was Wellington's sister city, Xiamen, to attend the 1st New Zealand-China Mayoral Forum. As the first of its kind, the Forum led by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) President Lawrence Yule and hosted by Mme Li Xiaolin, President of The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, strengthened engagement between mayors from both countries, and focussed on development opportunities within New Zealand's tourism, education and primary industries.

The 12 New Zealand mayors from Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Gisborne, Hastings, Matamata Piako District, Palmerston North, Taupo, Tauranga, Timaru, Wanganui Region and Wellington, together with 13 Chinese mayors signed the Xiamen Declaration, outlining the Forum's intent to deepen the friendship between New Zealand and China, and work towards the advancement of economic development outcomes for the people of both countries.

Following Xiamen, Mayor Brown visited Auckland's sister city, Guangzhou for discussions with his counterpart and close friend, Mayor Chen Jianhua. In 2014 the two cities celebrated their 25th anniversary as Sister Cities and, together with their mutual sister city of Los Angeles, launched the unique Tripartite Economic Alliance to facilitate business, government, cultural and

people connections between the three Asia-Pacific cities. The first Tripartite Summit was held in Los Angeles in June 2015 and Auckland will host the 2nd Summit in May 2016.

Whilst in Guangzhou, Auckland signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese innovation incubator InnoHub, paving the way for increased Chinese investment in Auckland companies and greater exposure for Auckland businesses to the Asia-Pacific rim market. As part of the MoU, InnoHub will establish a NZ\$20million fund to invest in Auckland businesses. In addition to this investment, InnoHub plans to develop a programme to assist young Auckland companies to use their space and services to enter the Chinese market.

During the 36 hours in Guangzhou, the Mayor and his team had a full programme which included a visit to the ISA International School in Guangzhou – the brainchild of NZ Principal, Elaine Whelen, discussions with one of China's largest animation companies, and met with serial entrepreneur Derrick Xiong from Ehang. The visit to Ehang was inspirational and allowed Mayor Brown to gain first-hand experience of how to fly a drone!

*Pamela Jamieson
Global Partnerships & Strategy Advisor
Auckland Council*

Foxton-Narita sisters celebrate 20 years



Mayor Brendan Duffy of Horowhenua and Mayor Kazunari Koizumi of Narita.



The Narita contingent at Poutu Marae, Shannon.

In late August, 50 visitors from Narita, Japan arrived in Foxton as part of a sister cities exchange facilitated by Manawatu College. Visiting representatives enjoyed a powhiri at Poutu Marae on the Saturday morning and a dinner at the College on the Sunday evening, amongst other activities during a sunny Horowhenua weekend. Four weeks later, a group of 14, led by Manawatu College's Kevin Brown departed for a 12 day reciprocal trip to Narita, Japan.

The visits marked a 20 year milestone in a relationship of exchange between Narita City (and in the earlier years Shimofusa) and Foxton, as strong now as ever. For the first time in that long history, Horowhenua Mayor Brendan Duffy was part of the group that travelled to Japan. He reflected that the experience was not only wonderful for him, but for the young people travelling from Foxton

"Japanese Students visiting us certainly take back home some very special and significant memories, it's the same for our college students that make the return visit."

"We were humbled by our incredibly welcoming and generous hosts. We have built a great understanding between the two towns. Narita were more than happy to tell us that of the six sister city relationships they have, the New Zealand and Foxton visit are the most sought after," said Mayor Duffy.

"We've got room to build on that strong 20 year relationship further too. Taking the time to visit has helped me understand the opportunities we have in Japan, including commercial because there is a lot of potential."

Mayor Duffy also wanted to make special thanks to all involved in the sister cities relationship and to those who organise the frequent exchanges.

"It's important we recognise that Manawatu College do a huge amount of work in this space. We will look at how we can do more to support this on an ongoing basis"

Story supplied by Garreth Stevens of Horowhenua District Council.

Volunteering in Nepal



Photos from the village of Gelu, Ramechhap

There's nothing more fulfilling than being entirely immersed in another country and making genuine and long lasting people-to-people connections through a common cause.

SCNZ Director Bing Lou recently returned from volunteering in a remote village of Gelu, Ramechhap, 160km east of Kathmandu.

She alongside 7 other volunteers from around the world worked with Volunteer Service Nepal and Youth Partnership for Development Peace Nepal to build a semi-permanent classroom for the local secondary school in the village of Sickral, which had been damaged by the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake back in April, followed by a second powerful aftershock two weeks later. Nepal has had immediate relief and aid to many of the worst affected districts, and is now preparing for long-term recovery and rebuild across the country.

Sickral now has a new semi-permanent classroom to replace their earthquake damaged ones, as well as a bamboo playground and swing for the kids. Support for the continuation of similar projects can be made through the Global Volunteer Network's Nepal Earthquake Appeal to assist with the construction and repair projects in the coming months.

"The pure joy you see on the faces of the local kids is simply enough to change a person's perspective on life and make your heart swell. To be welcomed in so warmly by the families who are in recovery and only beginning to rebuild their homes and lives as they were, has been truly humbling. There's simply no words to describe the gratitude I have for these incredibly resilient men, women and children who have taught me so much about family, community, happiness and love in one of the most beautiful countries in the world."

Bing will be sharing her full experience in Nepal at the 2016 SCNZ conference in April next year.

Victoria University seeking support for Chinese Scholars' Studio

By Cheryl Spain, Development Manager, Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education

Victoria University of Wellington is developing a project to create a traditional Chinese scholars' studio that would provide an exciting space in Wellington to share the unique Chinese New Zealand heritage in the city.

The studio would provide a focus for Victoria University's Chinese related programmes and a space for community outreach and education work.

The studio would also have an important link to other Chinese cultural heritage in Wellington such as the Chinese Garden that is being proposed and the Chinese historic district on Haining and Frederick Streets.

The location for the studio is yet to be confirmed, but possibilities include a space at Victoria's Kelburn campus, or in the proposed Chinese gardens on Wellington's waterfront.

The project is currently being developed and Victoria University are seeking feedback from partners who are interested in being part of the project. They are seeking funding and partnerships to get the project off the ground.

If you are interested in supporting the project or getting involved please contact:

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Victoria University
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More information: [URL: http://sistercities.org.nz/files/Chinese%20printing%20and%20scholars%20studio.pdf](http://sistercities.org.nz/files/Chinese%20printing%20and%20scholars%20studio.pdf)

Sister Cities New Zealand - newsletter.
All contributions and enquiries to
editor@sistercities.org.nz

Copy deadline for December issue
is 30th November 2015.