

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2012 SISTER/FRIENDSHIP CITY VISIT, CHINA & TAIWAN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the itinerary and expenditures relating to the 2012 Official Sister & Friendship Cities visit to China & Taiwan from September 20 to September 30, as set out in this report.

REPORT

The City of Burnaby has received invitations from Sister and Friendship Cities in China and Taiwan to visit their respective regions for the purposes of promoting trade, tourism and knowledge exchange between cities. The International Relations & Friendship Cities Committee recommends acceptance of the invitations as the visit will create an opportunity to promote the City of Burnaby as an international leader in economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The delegation, to be led by Mayor Derek Corrigan, will include three City Councillors, representatives from the Burnaby Board of Trade (including the President and CEO), and three delegates representing the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce.

Following is the proposed itinerary for the 2012 Sister/Friendship Cities visit:

September 20Flight from Vancouver to Taipei
September 21Flight from Taipei to Hong Kong
September 21Travel from Hong Kong to Macau
September 22Travel from Macau to Zhuhai
September 23Travel from Zhuhai to Zhongshan
September 24Zhongshan
September 25Travel from Zhongshan to Shenzhen
September 26Travel from Shenzhen to Hong Kong

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: International Relations & Friendship Cities
Committee
Re: China & Taiwan
2012 July 30..... Page 2

Flight from Hong Kong to Taipei

September 27Taipei

September 28Travel from Taipei to Taichung

September 29Travel from Taichung to Kaohsiung

September 30Travel from Kaohsiung to Taipei

Flight from Taipei to Vancouver

Costs associated with the official Sister/Friendship Cities visit for Mayor and Council members are estimated at approximately \$30,900 with funding available in the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget.

BACKGROUND

Zhuhai, China (Economic Trade Agreement with Burnaby Board of Trade)

Zhuhai is one of China's original Special Economic Zones established in the 1980s and is recognized as a premier tourist destination. Its international accolades include "Best Model of International Residential Environment Improvement" awarded by the United Nations. Industrial development in Zhuhai focuses on five new high-tech and heavy industries including electronics, computer software, biotechnology and pharmacy, machinery and equipment, as well as petrochemical industries. Zhuhai has over 200 companies registered in its free trade zone, including more than 150 foreign-funded enterprises, with a total investment of one billion US dollars. The Burnaby Board of Trade has an economic trade agreement with Zhuhai and, with its thriving economy, the City of Zhuhai offers many opportunities for Burnaby businesses.

Zhongshan, China (Sister City Agreement 2011)

There is a fundamental commonality between Burnaby and Zhongshan. Both cities are part of large metropolitan areas, are fast growing, have a significant retail component, support the development of clean industry and are concerned about their respective environments. The two communities also share common services and issues, including victim assistance programs, affordable housing, historic preservation, regional transportation, traffic management and crime prevention.

Zhongshan's primary industries are agriculture (rice, banana, sugar cane, lychee), horticulture (chrysanthemum), manufacturing (mahogany furniture, electrical household appliances, lighting products, food, casual wear, hardware and electronic acoustics products), and tourism. Since 2007, there have been several exchanges between the City

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: International Relations & Friendship Cities
Committee
Re: China & Taiwan

2012 July 30..... Page 3

of Burnaby and the City of Zhongshan and these exchanges have resulted in a very successful and active Sister City relationship.

Shenzhen, China

Shenzhen is a modern city with a vibrant economy, rapid foreign investment and trading (Shenzhen Stock Exchange), as well as successful high-tech companies. It is the third busiest port in China (after Shanghai and Hong Kong) and considered one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Shenzhen industries include biotechnology/pharmaceuticals, building/construction materials, chemical production and processing, computer software, electronics assembly and manufacturing, instruments and industrial equipment production, medical equipment and supplies, research and development, and telecommunications equipment. The City shares a rural background with Burnaby and both cities are home to hi-tech companies and technical learning institutions. The City of Shenzhen is also known for its parks, (with the popular Shenzhen University Park expanding over 13.5 hectares), and is in the process of building 55 km of greenways. During this visit the delegation will visit a Light-emitting Diode (LED) manufacturing plant to explore the possibility of using a more sustainable source of energy in the City of Burnaby infrastructure.

Taipei, Taiwan (Friendship Agreement 2009)

Taipei is the political, economic, and cultural centre of Taiwan. It has one of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves and the largest collection of Chinese artifacts and artworks in the world. It is a port city on the Pacific Ocean and therefore an important centre for overseas trade. It is also part of a major industrial area. Taipei is known for its long history of arts and culture, as well as its state of the art recycling and transit system which offers many opportunities for knowledge exchange with the City of Burnaby.

Taichung, Taiwan (Hi-Tech Declaration 2007 and Friendship Agreement 2009)

The City of Taichung's motto is 'economic, cultural and international city'. It is centrally located, like Burnaby, and acts as a hub for surrounding cities in the central Taiwan region. It has a vibrant, diverse economy that incorporates traditional businesses, small family-run shops, factories, large industrial areas, and a thriving commercial sector. Taichung has the second largest cargo port facility on the island and many museums and cultural centres. The City is on an environmental conservation quest to ensure sustainable development and has established a "Low Carbon City Promotion Team" to expand on its parks and other green spaces. Learning more about these initiatives will prove beneficial as the City of Burnaby embarks upon its Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: International Relations & Friendship Cities
Committee
Re: China & Taiwan
2012 July 30..... Page 4

Kaohsiung

Kaohsiung is the second largest city and most rapidly developing urban center in Taiwan. It is a center for manufacturing, refining, shipbuilding, and other light and heavy industries and major port for most of Taiwan's marine imports and exports. Kaohsiung recently opened the largest solar energy plant in Taiwan which will reduce carbon emissions by 3,623 metric tons annually. The government is also focused on developing off-shore wind energy, geothermal energy and tidal energy, as part of its renewable energy program.

SUMMARY

Strengthening ties with Burnaby's Sister and Friendship cities creates many benefits and opportunities including the introduction of new markets for Burnaby businesses, attracting investors, expanding tourism, as well as fostering cross continental relationships in arts and culture. These opportunities will positively impact on the lives of Burnaby residents and businesses on innumerable levels, and carries the City forward to becoming a centre for international trade and business, tourism, cultural & educational exchange opportunities, and technological & ecological innovation.

Council approval of this report is requested in order for staff to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the Sister/Friendship Cities visit.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor R. Chang
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Member

Copied to: City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director Planning & Building
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services