
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: SISTER/FRIENDSHIP CITY VISITS TO KUSHIRO, JAPAN AND
TAICHUNG, TAIWAN IN 2020**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council accept the invitation from Kushiro, Japan and authorize a delegation of Council to visit in 2020 in commemoration of the 55th anniversary of the Sister City relationship, and that all associated expenses be approved for payment in accordance with the City Expense Claim Policy.
2. THAT Council authorize a delegation of Council to visit Taichung City, Taiwan in 2020 in conjunction with its visit to Kushiro, Japan, and that all associated expenses be approved for payment in accordance with the City Expense Claim Policy.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The City of Burnaby maintains Sister and Friendship City relationships that meet the goals and objectives of Burnaby's International Relations and Friendship Cities Program.

At its meeting held on 2019 October 15, the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee, received correspondence from the Mayor of Kushiro City, Japan and the Mayor of Taichung City, Taiwan, extending invitations to Council to visit in 2020. Arising from discussion, the Committee adopted a motion to seek Council approval to visit the two cities on one trip in 2020 May/June.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

This report supports the following goals and sub-goals of the City's *Corporate Strategic Plan*:

- A Connected Community
 - Partnership –
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: International Relations & Friendship Cities Committee
Re: Visits to Kushiro, Japan and Taichung, Taiwan in 2020
2019 October 29..... Page 2

- A Dynamic Community
 - Economic opportunity –
Foster an environment that attracts new and supports existing jobs, businesses and industries

3.0 BACKGROUND

Kushiro City, Japan - since 1965, Burnaby has supported a very active Sister City relationship with Kushiro City. In 2015, the two cities commemorated 50 years as Sister Cities through an exchange of visits. On 2019 September 12, responding to a letter from Mayor Hurley regarding interest in acknowledging the upcoming 55th anniversary, Mayor Hiroya, Kushiro City, invited Council to visit Kushiro in 2020 (Appendix A).

Taichung City, Taiwan – Burnaby was one of the first communities in Canada to recognize the economical and cultural opportunities of “friendships” with Asian cities. With financial assistance from the Provincial Government’s Asia Pacific Initiative, a plan designed to help develop the strategies necessary to better integrate British Columbia with Asia Pacific, Burnaby established many Friendship Agreements with Asia-Pacific cities including the City of Taichung in 2009. On 2019 July 10, the Mayor of Taichung City sent an invitation to Mayor Hurley to visit Taichung and attend the 31st Taiwan Lantern Festival (Appendix B).

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee recommends acceptance of the invitations from Kushiro City and Taichung City to strengthen ties with these Sister/Friendship Cities.

Council approval of this report is required in order for staff to proceed with planning and making arrangements for the Sister/Friendship City visits.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Wang
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

Copied to: City Manager Director Corporate Services Director Finance Executive Assistant to the Mayor
--



KUSHIRO CITY

Appendix A

7-5 Kuroganecho
Kushiro City, Hokkaido
085-8505 JAPAN
Tel 0154-23-5151
Fax 0154-23-5220

September 12, 2019

**Mayor Mike Hurley
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby
British Columbia, V5G 1M2
CANADA**

Dear Mayor Hurley,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for your kind inquiry regarding the 55th anniversary of our sister city affiliation.

In 2015, the history of our affiliation celebrated half a century. Both cities observed the golden jubilee together in both Burnaby and Kushiro. Kushiro City, in the recent decade, has conducted commemorative events to celebrate affiliation with other cities in both Japan and overseas, to mark every ten years.

However, having a new mayor in Burnaby and a new city council in Kushiro, I would like to invite you and Burnaby city councillors to Kushiro, to commemorate the 55th anniversary in 2020.

I look forward to enhancing the productive relationship between Burnaby and Kushiro, as well as the development of the both cities.

Sincerely yours,

**EBINA Hiroya
Mayor**





TAICHUNG CITY GOVERNMENT

Appendix B

The Hon. Mr. Mike Hurley, Mayor of Burnaby,

The summer solstice has arrived and I wish to send my blessings to you. I hope that everything is going smoothly for you, with all your works progressing, city government thriving and residents prospering and in good health.

Your city through our bilateral networking has had a prosperous friendship with Taichung City, which is of great importance to me. As the Mayor of Taichung City, I hope that our two cities will have substantial exchanges in economic and trade, culture, education, tourism and much more. Let's work towards realizing this together!

The Taiwan Lantern Festival has been held by the Tourism Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications since 1990. Each year, a city will be chosen to be the host city to display the lanterns. The integration of the traditional Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival creates a colorful, dazzling display of lanterns. In 2015, the 26th Taiwan Lantern Festival held in Taichung was complimented by CNN as being "Disneyland without roller coasters". According to the data gathered, the festival that year attracted a total of 13.71 people and created over 13.1 billion New Taiwan Dollars in economic output value.

The 31st Taiwan Lantern Festival will be held in Taichung City from February 8 – 23, 2020. The predicted number of people to attend will surpass 15 million. The main exhibition area of the lantern festival will be at the Houli Park Area of the 2018 Taichung World Flora Exposition. It'll be an innovative way of displaying lanterns by integrating them with the forest and natural surroundings, creating another new chapter in the Taiwan Lantern Festival.

We would like to formally invite your city to join us in designing the lantern display area, marketing your city's tourism and cultural uniqueness. We would also like to invite you and a delegation of city officials to come join us for the opening ceremony in Taichung City. It'll be our great honor!

Lastly, I'd like to once again express my gratitude for the efforts you have made in contributing to the collaboration and networking between our two cities.

Sincerely,

Taichung City Mayor

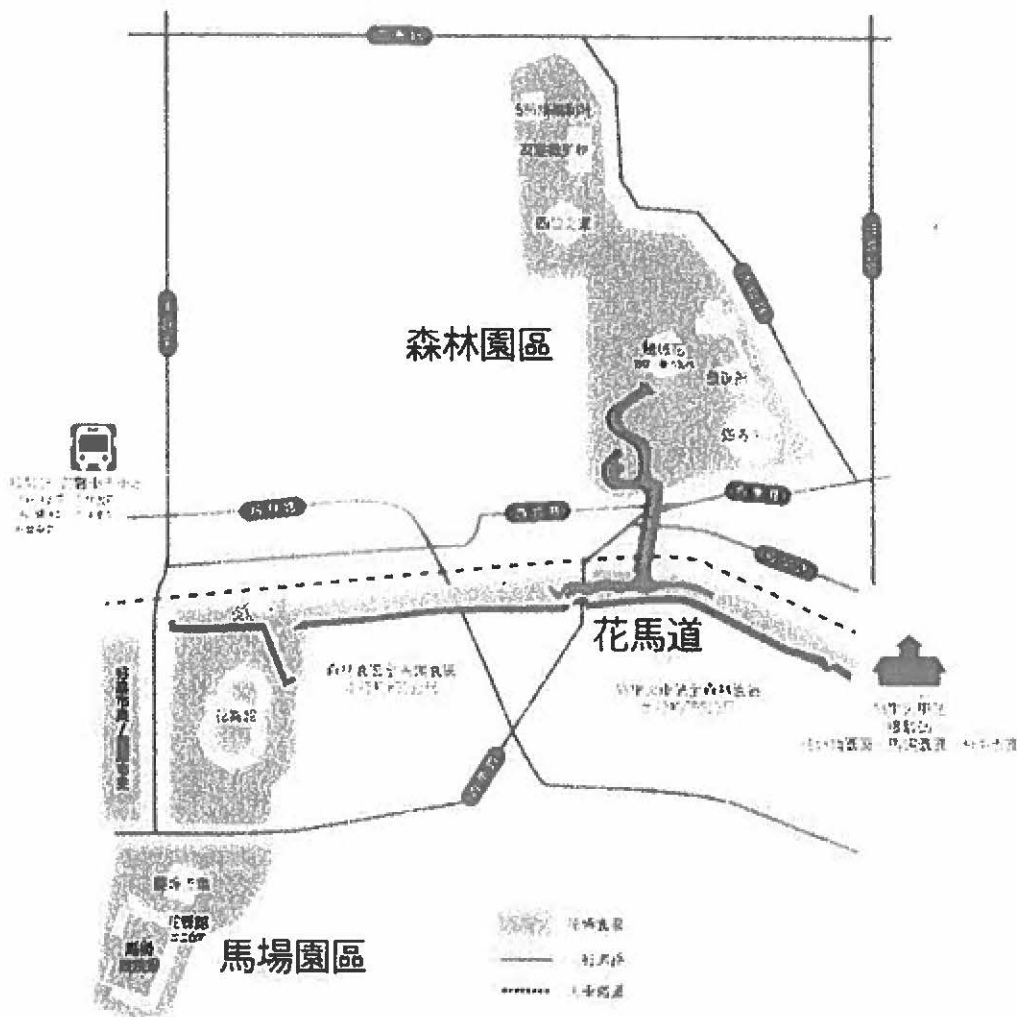
July 10th, 2019

2020 Taiwan Lantern Festival –Sincerely Invite You to Join Us

■ Main Exhibition Area

Location: Taichung World Flora Exposition Houli Park Area
(including Horse Ranch and Forest Expo Site)

Duration: February 8th – 23rd, 2020



If you are interested in attending this event, please send us an email prior to August 30, 2019 (contact window: sylviasie@taichung.gov.tw) to let us know. For the specifics of our collaboration, it can be decided after bilateral negotiations. Our city government will provide the relevant administrative and general assistance.