



SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

NEWSLETTER

August 2019



SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE Growing Cultural Diversity in Regions

Ashburton, 30 April – 2 May 2020

See sistercities.org.nz for more information

From the SCNZ board:

Introducing New Corporate Members

Bancorp Group Limited/Japan New Zealand Business Council (JNZBC)

By Mia Evans, General Manager of Bancorp Group & Vice Chair of JNZBC

Bancorp's core services include Private Banking and asset management, Corporate Finance, Specialist Property Finance and Services, Private Equity Investments and Treasury Advisory. www.bancorp.co.nz

The Japan New Zealand Business Council, whose mission is to promote business opportunities and strengthen trade and economic ties between New Zealand and Japan for its members, as well as the broader business community.

Membership of the New Zealand Committee is open to private sector companies, individuals, government agencies, regional economic development agencies, industry associations, and educational institutions engaged or interested in the promotion of trade between New Zealand and Japan.

The JNZBC was formed in 1974 and is New Zealand's longest standing business organization within Asia.

The New Zealand Committee meets bimonthly for planning purposes, oversight of the accounts, and other administrative matters. Following each Committee meeting we hold networking functions with invited speakers. This is open to all members and the Japanese business community, as an opportunity to engage and exchange information to better connect NZ Inc and Japan Inc. www.jnzbc.com

Mia is an honorary member of "Support our Kids" and works alongside this NPO to help children who have been orphaned or displaced in the 2011 Disaster in Japan. Mia works in New Zealand alongside Ian Kennedy and facilitates the School programmes, homestay families, activities, sponsorship & media. <http://support-our-kids.org/about-en/>

Prestige Law

By Chantha Kim, Practice Manager

Prestige Law is a boutique, full services law firm based in Auckland with offices in the Auckland CBD and North Shore, and representatives in Wellington, Melbourne, Shanghai, Taipei and London.

Prestige Law was founded in Hamilton in 2006 by Royal Reed who has a NZ law degree and other qualifications from the Republic of China and Harvard University.

In response to increasing demand from the migrant communities for bilingual legal services, Royal moved to Auckland and transformed the firm to offer multi-faceted legal services in litigation, with a special focus on family law, conveyancing, immigration and investment. The firm's multicultural, multilingual and China market expertise gave it the edge over firms of similar size whilst providing complementarity to larger firms which lack the cultural flair.

The firm is specialised as a multilingual practice currently employing lawyers and legal executives originally from Taiwan, India, Thailand, Brazil, Malaysia, China, Korea, Cambodia, and Japan and is interested in Taichung (Taiwan) / Auckland sister city relationship as well as Fukuoka (Japan).

Royal's CSR initiatives include being a member of Kea New Zealand's Global Board, board member of On Being Bold group, and advising the Luxury Network, Auckland Art Gallery, Land Information New Zealand, and many other private companies both locally and internationally.

<https://prestige.law/>

Nau mai ki Tāmaki Makaurau e ngā manene o Kānata

By Pamela Jamieson, Auckland Council

The International Relations team recently hosted a visit from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada with leaders from Te Waka Anga Mua ki Uta, the central unit of Māori expertise within Auckland Council. It was an opportunity to share how Auckland Council is implementing the Māori Identity and Wellbeing outcome Te tuakiri Māori me tōna oranga, one of our six Auckland Plan 2050 outcomes.

Head of Māori Strategy Policy and Effectiveness, Te Waka Anga Mua ki Uta, Theresa Roigard said the visit demonstrated the maturity of our Māori responsiveness and our willingness to share innovative ideas around our own policy and legislative agenda.

The delegation was in New Zealand to learn about our legislative systems, policies and processes to recognise and implement Indigenous rights. Discussion topics also

included Treaty obligations, The Auckland Plan 2050, Innovation, Māori Engagement and Co-Governance.

Head of Māori Relationships and Governance Rama Ormsby referred to indigenous world view perspectives in decision making and the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi based chief-to-chief relationships with Māori in the governance of Auckland. He hopes this dialogue will strengthen engagement between Māori and Canada's Indigenous Peoples.

The Canadian officials are confident they'll benefit from the discussions by being able to mirror innovative ideas from New Zealand in order to move forward its own policy and legislative agenda.

The visit concluded with a formal gift exchange of a ceramic huia feather (right). The huia is one of New Zealand's best-known extinct birds and is of special significance in Māori culture.



L-R: Theresa Roigard, Head of Māori Strategy Policy and Effectiveness, Te Waka Anga Mua ki Uta; Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC); Rama Ormsby, Head of Māori Relationships and Governance; Tessa Button, Policy Analyst, Treaties and Aboriginal Government.



2019 China-New Zealand Year of Tourism Update

By Katherine MacGregor, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

The 2019 China-New Zealand Year of Tourism has provided a unique opportunity for China and New Zealand to strengthen economic ties through tourism. Across New Zealand, cities and regions are making the most of the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism to boost people-to-people links and opportunities for cooperation. A number of key events and milestones have marked the year and demonstrated the already strong links between China and New Zealand.

Minister of Tourism Kelvin Davis for example visited China in June. As a manuhiri of Chinese Minister of Culture Luo Shugang and Tourism, Minister Davis experienced the very best of Chinese manaakitanga, while also deepening our relationship with China. The visit culminated in both Ministers signing a tourism cooperation arrangement between the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Similarly in July, student delegates from New Zealand and China gathered in Christchurch to attend a week-long youth leadership summit organised by the Institute of Global Engagement. Students were resident in St Andrew's College with special topic days in Dunedin hosted by Taieri College. The summit focused on about preparing the

next generation of leaders in China and New Zealand to be effective global citizens as well as build cross-cultural engagement between the New Zealand and Chinese students.

September will be a busy month for the Year of Tourism. A New Zealand business delegation is visiting Xi'an in early September. Delegates and New Zealand tourists will be treated to a Tang Dynasty Style Welcoming Ceremony set in Xi'an's Old City Wall. Such a welcome is normally reserved for heads of state and is a "once in a lifetime experience".

In late September, there will be the New Zealand Chinese Language Week (NZCLW). NZCLW is a Kiwi-driven initiative that aims to increase Chinese language learning in New Zealand and bridge the cultural and linguistic knowledge gap between China and New Zealand. We encourage all to get involved.

These events have no doubt contributed to the success of the Year of Tourism and as November draws closers, all eyes will be on the Closing Ceremony, which New Zealand will host in China.

For further details on events and how to get involved see www.cnzyot.govt.nz

2019 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Update

By Xan Wetherall, Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan

The JET Programme is easily one of Japan and New Zealand's most important and successful cross-cultural grassroots initiative programmes.

Spanning more than three decades, with over 3,300 Kiwi participants, it was an honour to be a part of this year's cycle, seeing off nearly 80 new JET Programme participants to placements all across Japan! The JET Programme started in 1987, back when there were only 4 countries participating (New Zealand being one of them), and there are now over 5,500 JETs spread across Japan from 57 different countries!

Successful 2019 JET Programme participants from New Zealand arrived in Japan on Sunday 4th August, spending three exciting days at Tokyo Orientation before heading to their new homes around the country to promote internationalisation at a local, human level. To further compound on this connection, a number of JETs were placed in areas with sister city links with New Zealand. Chief among them this year was Minoh City in Osaka prefecture, the sister city to Lower Hutt in the Wellington region, where 14 JETs from across New Zealand were placed! New Zealand JET participants were also placed in Tomakomai-shi (sister city to Napier), Shinagawa-ku (sister city to Auckland), Toyooka-shi (sister city to Ruapehu), Bihoro-cho (sister city to Waipa-Cambridge), Tendo-shi (sister city to Marlborough), and Susaki-shi (sister city to Tauranga). With so many great sister

city-related placements encouraging cross-cultural communication across the oceans, it's no wonder that Japan and New Zealand have the most sister city relationships in the country! It's always exciting to see these important connections being maintained over the years, and we wish our New Zealand JETs all the best for the year (or years!) ahead.

If you know someone who might be interested in applying for the JET Programme, please feel free to check out our website, or reach out to us by e-mail (jicc@wl.mofa.go.jp) or phone (04-495-8333)! We're always happy to answer any question, and eager to send as many Kiwis as we can over each year! Applications for the 2020 New Zealand JET Programme intake cycle are slated to open mid-September, and close 2nd December, so there's no time like the present to start getting your documents in order! We can't wait to see who heads over next.

For more information, please see our New Zealand JET Programme website:

www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/JET.html

Or check out the New Zealand JET Programme Facebook page: www.facebook.com/JETProgrammeNZ

Below: Successful 2019 JET Programme participants from Wellington enjoyed their "Itterasshai" Farewell Reception on Friday, 2nd August alongside Ambassador Kobayashi the evening before their departure for Japan.





2019 China New Zealand Youth Leadership Summit

By Jan Fitz-Gerald, China New Zealand Youth Leadership Summit & Institute Of Global Engagement New Zealand

The six day 2019 summit was held last month in Christchurch with 90 student delegates from China and New Zealand in residence at St Andrew's College.

This was followed by four special topic days for the Chinese delegation in Queenstown and Dunedin and kindly hosted by Taieri College.

The purpose of the summit is to prepare the next generation of leaders to understand each other's cultures and countries and learn how to be effective leaders together within a cross-cultural environment. Many workshops, forums and presentations covered a wide range of topics. Speakers included Stephen Jacobi of the New Zealand China Council, Alistair Crozier, former Consul General, Chengdu, Richard Leung of the New Zealand Chinese Association, David Pine, former High Commissioner and ASEAN Adviser and many more outstanding people.

Student delegates attended their first formal opening ceremony with special guests from the governments of China and New Zealand. Two VIP education delegations

from the municipal government of Qingdao attended the opening with a first city to city education cooperation agreement was signed between Christchurch Educated and the Qingdao Education Bureau.

Hiromi Morris of Sister Cities New Zealand presented youth summit organisers from Qingdao Education Bureau and No. 9 School and the Institute of Global Engagement New Zealand IGENZ with the award for Best Youth Project of 2018.

The summit in 2020 will return to China where it is expected that IGENZ will be taking a large delegation of New Zealand senior students. Qingdao No. 9 School will once again host the summit with special topic days likely to be in Zhuhai, Shenzhen and Beijing.

IGENZ is especially grateful for the kind support of Education New Zealand, The New Zealand China Council, Christchurch Educated, St Andrew's College, Taieri College and Sister Cities New Zealand.

Further details can be at www.globalengagement.ac.nz



Top left: Signing of Christchurch Educated and Qingdao Education Bureau MOU; Top right: Summit attendees and officials
Bottom left: Hiromi Morris presenting SCNZ Award; Bottom right: Government officials at opening ceremony
Photographer: St Andrew's College.

Lytton High School Students and Staff Visit Japan

By Jan Calder, Gisborne District Sister Cities

Lytton High School (LHS) staff members Ryan Majstrovic (Japanese Language Teacher), Tim Dagger (Deputy Principal) and Chrissie Robertson (HoD Food/Textiles) plus two excited parents took a group of LHS students to Japan for two weeks in May 2019.

During this time they visited Tokyo, Gamagori, Nonoichi, and Osaka. The group were home hosted by local schools in Gamagori, Nonoichi and Osaka as well as the contrast of experiencing backpacker style accommodation.

Hometown Gisborne has had a SC relationship with Gamagori (23 years) and Nonoichi (29 years) and the true warmth with which they were received and spoiled with each city will be with them forever. The school exchange between Nonoichi and Gisborne students has been operating since the 90's.

Ryan Majstrovic, with an authentic experience in mind had travelled to Japan in 2018 to meet and make contacts and personally plan the two weeks.

This preplanning resulted in a once in a lifetime experience for both students and adults.

They now know the meaning of "total-immersion" and "being thrown in the deep end".

During their stay there were many highlights, some of which were: a Taiko drumming class, exploring the food, culture and crowded places, aquariums, fish markets and restaurants, landmarks including an ancient family home, temples, universities and polytechnics, a thought-provoking visit to Hiroshima, art and craft options including carving a "Megani".

All too soon it was time to leave. With very mixed emotions both students and adults arrived back to families, friends and school life. They brought home with them great memories of meeting Mayors of very large cities, a group of women welcoming them with a rendition of "God Defend NZ" at the Gamagori Railway Station, the personal challenges with language, culture, food and continually being placed outside their comfort zones.

The group are now enjoying corresponding with their Japanese friends, looking forward to greeting the Mayor of Nonoichi and his Delegation while here for the "Tuia Encounters 250 / Te Ha 2019 Sestercentennial" in October and planning the hosting of a group from Japan to Lytton High School in 2020.



Clockwise from top left:

Drumming class in Nonoichi;

Zya Gurau & Kris Matete wearing Yukatas;

Ella Parkin & Rata Jamieson wearing Kimonos;

Ryan Majstrovic and his Taiko Drum Experience;

T.K.Wharehinga & Skye Briggs with Gamagori students.

Xiamen - a Citizen's view of our 'Gateway' to China

By Janet Andrews, Wellington Xiamen Association

In this, the NZ China Year of Tourism, a trip for 18 Wellington citizens to their sister city of Xiamen seemed perfectly timed.

Much more than a tourist view, this was to provide a valuable introduction to China - its culture, protocol, etiquette, daily life, language and cuisine - for a diverse group of Wellingtonians including - a city councillor, a senior policy analyst for MPI, a board member of NZ Maori Tourism, an art school principal, an event organiser, artists and designers. All participants paid their own way, with much effort by WXA resulting in all-inclusive costs of \$2275 pp.

Leaving Wellington on May 26th, it was an 8-day intensive programme of visiting museums, exhibitions, world heritage sites, educational institutions, and facilitating opportunities for delegates, and WXA officers, to pursue specific projects.

It also signalled our continuing and genuine commitment to this sister city relationship, now in its 32nd year.

Several official functions were organised for us, not the least being a formal ceremony at the Xiamen City Museum, recognising the connection between NZ Maori and the Polynesian forbears who sailed from the S E Asian mainland some 10,000 years ago, and our presentation of a pounamu mere to the Museum.

"an innovative approach to enhance mutual understanding..."

A formal dinner with relevant city officials and educational and business contacts saw ongoing and future projects discussed: film, IT, book printing, secondary school twinning, short term tertiary student study tours, solar panel exports, sporting exchanges, city-to-city tourism, solutions to environmental challenges; and hope expressed on both sides that new scope for co-operation and more exchanges can be achieved.

So on all fronts this was a very successful delegation, giving value to both individuals and to the sister city relationship - with full recognition by delegates of the potential benefits for both cities from this relationship. From Xiamen, we have since received a formal document expressing sincere gratitude to WXA, and commending the Citizens Delegations we organise as "an innovative approach to enhance mutual understanding..."

As was concluded at the latest SCNZ Conference, where the focus was on how SC's can achieve economic benefit from SC relationships, this potential now needs to be acted on by other agencies in the Wellington region, and even across NZ, to be realised. Volunteer associations like ours do the hard work at ground level to build relationships and trust - business communities, chambers, and economic development agencies must take up the reins next, and act on these opportunities.



Top row: Wellingtonians exploring Xiamen and surrounding countryside

Bottom left: Wellington delegates presenting a pounamu mere to Xiamen Museum

Bottom middle: Dinner with Xiamen contacts

Bottom right: Wellington Citizens Delegation visiting Xiamen artists

Whanganui explores Economic and business opportunities at Asia Pacific Cities Summit and a sister city visit to Toowoomba

By Marianne Cavanagh, Whanganui District Council

Developing economic ties with Asia, as well as exploring business opportunities with Australia sister city Toowoomba, was the focus of Whanganui District Council representation at the 12th Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayor's Forum and Ag in the Asian Century Conference in Brisbane in July.

Councillor Alan Taylor (representing Mayor Hamish McDouall) and Whanganui & Partners Chief Executive Mark Ward were formally invited to attend by Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Paul Antonio. Both attended the summit, Mayor's Forum and conference.

Toowoomba's Economic Development organisation, Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, held a trade event, "Ag in the Asian Century Conference" that ran concurrently to the summit in the same venue. It focussed on business within the agriculture and agribusiness fields, enabling food producers to do business throughout Asia.

Councillor Taylor and Mr Ward were then hosted for a visit to Whanganui's sister city of 36 years, Toowoomba. The three day visit to the Toowoomba region focussed on visiting digital hubs, food and beverage clusters, creative industries and tourist/visitor information centres.

Mr Ward was interested in the success of the Global Agrifood Innovation Precinct in Toowoomba, and the food and beverage clusters.

"Businesses have invested heavily, alongside local and federal government, in positioning Toowoomba as a global agrifood innovation hub, matched by ready-access to international markets through their local airport."

A highlight was the visit and tour of Toowoomba's Wellcamp Airport. Discussions centred on the potential for trade export from Whanganui to Asia, via Toowoomba, with the future focussing on introducing passenger services. Whilst this would be several years away it is an exciting model to

be explored. This was evidenced by the front page articles about their visit in the Toowoomba newspaper.

In addition, an arts exchange between Whanganui and Toowoomba was discussed, with a strong link between the cities creative industries.



Wellcamp Airport, Toowoomba



Mark Ward, Chief Executive Whanganui & Partners and Joanne Bray, Coordinator of the Toowoomba Visitor Information Centre chatting over a bottle of Toowoomba Mountain Air.

Hamilton Mayor visits Chengdu, China

By Laura Lupson, Hamilton City Council

On the 8th June 2019, Mayor Andrew King & Councillor Geoff Taylor travelled to Chengdu China for the Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair, and the highlight of the fair being the 2019 Innovation Forum for Mayors of International Sister Cities of Chengdu.

The Fair was sponsored by the Chengdu Municipal People's Government and was themed by "New Economy, New Ecosystem and New Business Environment".

During this trip, Mayor Andrew King and

Councillor Taylor attended the celebrating ceremony of the Chengdu Hamilton School Project.



Mayor King and Councillor Taylor look at opening plaque for Sister City School

Mayor Andrew King was also hosted to a lovely dinner with Mayor Luo Qiang, Mayor of Chengdu.

The Waikato University Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Alister Jones accompanied Mayor Andrew King and Councillor Taylor to the meeting and dinners. Enhancing the relationship between Hamilton City and University of Waikato.

Building a Core Cities network to connect globally

By Amber Walters, Wellington City Council

Recently, the Wellington City Council International Relations team hosted a workshop for people from New Zealand's core cities. It was aimed to build a domestic framework for collaboration between the International Relations teams and Economic Development Agencies from other NZ councils.

A few years ago, MBIE wrote a report about the advantages of larger NZ cities, such as Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, working together to benefit their communities, called 'Core Cities.' Since then, the Core Cities concept concentrated on the China-Mayoral forum and water projects, without really exploring what other NZ cities are doing globally in establishing global partnerships, developing economic initiatives and international opportunities for their own communities as well as the country.

The WCC International Relations team took the initiative to connect the NZ core cities and Palmerston North together, in a full day workshop, to see what we can learn from other cities with a similar context and to share our successes and challenges in engaging global civic partners and encouraging economic development in NZ cities. The theme for the day was "Mā te huruhuru, ka rere te manu" (With the feathers of knowledge, a bird can fly).

"Most of us were meeting for the first time. We shared best practice tips, policy frameworks, and learnt how others manage their expertise, resources and time to the best effect. It was extremely insightful for all of us. We don't want to have to reinvent the wheel every time situations change," said WCC Senior International Relations Advisor, Amber Walters.

For the WCC International Relations teams, it was a chance to discuss the importance of civic relations and global

partnerships based around their council's priorities and beyond their own sister city relationships with Sydney, Canberra, Beijing, Xiamen, Sakai, Harrogate, Chania and Çanakkale-Gallipoli.

The joint statement from this first workshop is:

- To be relevant and competitive in a global environment, New Zealand's cities have a responsibility to step up and cooperate internationally.
- By growing and leveraging the connections between our cities and the world, we attract valuable business, talent, ideas, investment, students and visitors to Aotearoa New Zealand, creating long-term benefits for our local communities and the country.
- A recent independent report by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) reinforces this approach, showing that well-maintained global city relationships and official visits create a conducive, high-trust environment from which international business, trade and exchange can more easily occur.

What's next?

"We're excited to continue building relationships with people from local councils around NZ. We had some great initial discussions and I can only imagine they'll get richer and more helpful as we meet together more often," said Amber.

The NZ Core Cities network will reconnect with this group in person every year, and continue to collaborate virtually.

If you want more information about the workshop, get in touch with the team by emailing GRPInternationalRelations@wcc.govt.nz



From L to R: Jennifer Zhou (WCC); Robert Peden (WCC); Milinda Peris (CCC); Amber Walters (WCC); Matt Nichols (CCC); Sean Hickey (HCC); Kimberley Wu (AC); Jo Hall (Tauranga Export NZ); Toni Grace (PNCC); John Christie (DCC); Tom Yuan (WCC).

Celebrating 30 years: Blenheim and Tendo

By Cathie Bell, Marlborough Sister City Committee

Marlborough celebrated 30 years of the sister-city relationship between Blenheim and the Japanese city of Tendo last month.

The relationship was signed in 1989, when Blenheim's then-borough council mayor Leo McKendry signed in July, followed one by the then-Picton borough council with the city of Otari two years later.

Blenheim and Picton boroughs have merged and now form the Marlborough District Council, which is proud of its two long-standing sister-city relationships.

To celebrate the milestone, current Mayor John Leggett met with Japanese Ambassador Hiroyasu Kobayashi on July 3 for an afternoon tea to mark the occasion. Another formal occasion will be held in January when a delegation from Tendo is to visit Marlborough.

The Ambassador said Marlborough's relationships with Tendo and Otari were originally formed because both regions were major cherry growers for their respective countries.

"It all started from the business side, but now has developed into the cultural and educational side," Ambassador Kobayashi said.

"Japan loves New Zealand very much and I hope New Zealand likes Japan as well."

With Palmerston North signing an agreement with Mihara, Hiroshima, at the Annual Sister Cities conference this year, New Zealand now has 44 sister city relationships with Japan - the most with any other country.

Ambassador Kobayashi said he believes that Japanese people and New Zealanders have a lot in common.

After apologising for the wet weather in usually sunny Blenheim, Mayor Leggett spoke of his own experience visiting Japan three years ago.



Ambassador Kobayashi with former Mayor Gerald Hope, now councillor and head of the council sister city committee, Marlborough Mayor John Leggett, and former Mayor Alistair Sowman, who is also on the council's sister city committee.

He was "very impressed" by efficient transport and warm hospitality, and thinks the connection is a "wonderful experience" for young exchange students.

"Having the Japanese students spend time here as well gives everyone an opportunity to see that there's a lot of things that we quite like the same," he said.

"We like to eat good food, we like to laugh, we like computer gadgets."

Rt Hon Helen Clark to attend EDNZ Conference 2019

By Linda Stewart, Economic Development New Zealand

EDNZ is delighted to announce that former Prime Minister of NZ and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Right Honourable Helen Clark, will be a distinguished guest at the upcoming EDNZ 2019 Conference.

Helen will take part in a one hour facilitated conversation with EDNZ Chair, Pam Ford, and answer questions from the floor.

The EDNZ 2019 Conference will be focussed on inclusive growth within Aotearoa - making it happen. Inclusive growth is economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all.(OECD).

The big questions will be posed and answered: "How do we confront the rising inequality within New Zealand and its adverse impact on economic growth? Especially so at a time when the fourth industrial revolution (based on emerging technologies) is threatening many of our traditional jobs and has the potential to significantly exacerbate the divide between the haves and have nots".

There is no bigger policy challenge preoccupying leaders around the world, and especially within NZ, than how best to expand social participation in the process so that the benefits of economic growth and integration can be more evenly shared. Helen's experience and skills gives her a unique perspective on the issue.

To learn more about the conference and to book visit:
www.economicdevelopment.org.nz



Delivering
Inclusive Growth

30 Oct - 1 Nov 2019, Marlborough