



# GLOBAL CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

## Forum 2022

10am, Thursday 10 November 2022  
at Grand Hall, Parliament Building

**Theme:** Celebrating New Zealand's Diplomatic Relations - Global Connections and Diversity through Citizen Diplomacy





# GLOBAL CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity



This forum is hosted by  
Tangi Utikere MP

*Sponsored by the following organisations*



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## Welcome Message



### Tangi Utikere, MP for Palmerston North

It's a pleasure to host the Global Cities New Zealand Forum 2022 at Parliament – a time for discussion and sharing of experiences

and opportunities to develop and maintain international connections around the world.

This year we celebrate 80 years of New Zealand's diplomatic relations with the United States of America, 70 years with Japan, 60 years with South Korea and 50 years with China. This is a great achievement, and one GCNZ should be extremely proud of.

With the first links between New Zealand coming about after the Second World War, 'people-to-people' engagement is at the heart of the Sister Cities movement. Over

the years, towns and cities around New Zealand have built and fostered productive relationships with around 160 locations across 24 countries. These connections not only enhance the cultural diversity of New Zealand towns and cities, but also encourage friendship between countries and bring about economic opportunities for regions throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

I congratulate you on the work you continue to do to ensure these relationships are well maintained, and that New Zealanders will benefit from this investment for years to come.

I wish you all the best for a productive and informative forum.

## President's Message



### Mayor Grant Smith JP

Kia ora, welcome, konnichiwa, an nyeong ha seyo and ni hao.

As the new president of Global Cities New Zealand (GCNZ), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our International Forum here at Parliament Buildings in the Grand Hall.

The theme is 'Celebrating New Zealand's Diplomatic Relations - Global Connections and Diversity through Citizen Diplomacy', and I could not think of a more fitting venue, as 2022 is a special year of bilateral celebrations for New Zealand. I want to acknowledge our international partners, their respective Embassies and the anniversaries we share; with the USA – 80 years, Japan – 70 years, South Korea – 60 years and China – 50 years. My personal thanks to the Ambassadors for their presentations and support.

I would also like to acknowledge the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Aupito William Sio; and Palmerston North MP Tangi Utikere, who is hosting us here in the Grand Hall.

The forum also features panel discussions

and case studies on city and citizen led reconnections with our four featured global partners, along with acknowledgment of some significant sister city anniversaries spanning 50 and 40 years, and the relaunch of GCNZ's Youth Subcommittee as we look to the future.

Although the last few years have been difficult with the Covid pandemic affecting our everyday lives and certainly international travel, we have learnt many new ways to stay in touch with our sister cities and international partners. With borders reopening, we have already seen pent-up activity and delegations reconnecting physically, and with newfound technology there will be more ways to stay connected.

Finally I wish to thank our partners and funders in making this forum possible; MFAT, Office of MP Tangi Utikere, Parliamentary Services, the Embassies of USA, Japan, South Korea and China, as well as the tireless work of Forum Coordinator Hiromi Morris.

Ngā mihi nui.

Thursday 10 November		
Time	Session	Speaker
MC: Darren Ludlaw		
9:00am	Registrations open	
10:00am	Mihi	Kura Moeahu
10:15am	Welcome	Tangi Utikere, Member of Parliament
10:25am	Greetings	Grant Smith, GCNZ President
10:35am	Opening remarks	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade
10:50am	Presentations by Ambassadors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HE Mr ITO Koichi, Ambassador of Japan</li> <li>• HE Mr Tom Udall, Ambassador of the United States of America</li> <li>• HE Dr WANG Xiaolong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China</li> <li>• Mr Ockchae YOON, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea</li> </ul>	
12:30pm	Lunch	
1:20pm	Relaunch of GCNZ Youth Subcommittee	Taylor Marston, GCNZ Director & Youth Subcommittee Members
1:50pm	Panel Discussion: Global Connections and Diversity through Citizen Diplomacy - How to reconnect with our global partners? Facilitator: Darren Ludlaw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzi Duffin, Student Coordinator of Hutt Sister City Foundation (USA)</li> <li>• Andrew McGeorge, Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee (Japan)</li> <li>• Michael Stevens, Chair of Korean Cinerama Trust (Korea)</li> <li>• Teresa Chan, Chair of Dunedin Shanghai Association (China)</li> </ul>	
3:00pm	Group discussion with light refreshments and report back	
3:50pm	2022 Significant Anniversaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christchurch-Adelaide 50 years: Jack Chaney, Civic and International Relations Advisor, Christchurch City Council</li> <li>• Christchurch-Christchurch UK 50 years: Bevan Killick, Chair of Christchurch-Christchurch-UK Sister City Committee</li> <li>• Other anniversaries – photo slides presentation</li> </ul>	
4:30pm	2023 Annual Conference short presentation	Mayor Nadine Taylor, Marlborough District Council
4:40pm	Closing remarks	Ray Wallace, GCNZ Vice President
	Followed by drinks and nibbles for networking	
6:00pm	Finish	

## Distinguished Speakers



**Hon Aupito  
William Sio**  
Associate Minister of  
Foreign Affairs & Trade

Aupito William Sio is the Minister for Pacific Peoples and Minister for Courts. He is also the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples), Associate Minister of Justice and Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples).

Minister Sio has been the elected Member of Parliament (MP) for the Māngere Electorate since 2008, prior to entering Parliament he served as the deputy mayor of Manukau City and the elected city councillor for the Otara Ward.

Minister Sio is a passionate advocate for cultural diversity and the needs of Pacific peoples. In addition, he has been very vocal about climate change and how it is affecting the smaller islands and atolls in the Pacific region.



**Tangi Utikere**  
Member of Parliament

Tangi Utikere is the Labour MP for Palmerston North. Prior to his election in 2020, Tangi served 10 years on the Palmerston North City Council, and was the city's first elected member of Pasifika heritage. Tangi was appointed Deputy Mayor in 2016, a role he relinquished upon his election to Parliament.

Whilst a member of the PNCC, Tangi was heavily involved with GCNZ, and had a pivotal role in preserving and fostering relationships with of Palmerston North's international city partnerships – Guiyang, China; Missoula, USA; Kunshan, People's Republic of China; and Mihara, Japan.

With a background in education, his Global Cities involvement included leading an education delegation to Guizhou province.

Tangi holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Triple Major in History, Political Science and Social Policy, along with a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) from Massey University.

## Key Conference Figures



**Kura Moeahu**  
Whaitua te  
Whanganui-a-Tara

Kura Moeahu is the chairman of Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa, and has also been greatly involved in iwi governance as both a chair and board member on a number of boards.

Kura is well known and highly sought for his knowledge of Te Ao Māori and tikanga Māori having whakapapa ties to Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whanui and Ngāti Toa.

Kura is dedicated to supporting rangatahi in their development.



**Darren Ludlaw**  
MC

Darren Ludlow is an Invercargill-based broadcaster, MC, local body politician and former amateur stunt person (not very good – there have been injuries). He has a great understanding of the value of international sister city relationships, plus the challenges of maintaining those relationships over the past two years.

## Distinguished Speakers



**HE Mr ITO Koichi**  
Ambassador of Japan  
to New Zealand, the  
Cook Islands & Niue

Ambassador Ito came to New Zealand in December 2020, after serving as the Consul General in Honolulu.

Since then, he has visited Japanese sister cities, including Palmerston North, Dunedin, New Plymouth, Invercargill, Gisborne, and Whakatāne, witnessing strong connections with Japan, along with New Zealand's rich cultural diversity, and the deep friendship between the two countries. He is grateful for the many people who have dedicated themselves to these close sister city connections; the cornerstone of our diplomatic relations which this year celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During his youth, he lived in a town near Osaka's Minoh City which has been Lower Hutt's sister city for 27 years.



**HE Dr WANG Xiaolong**  
Ambassador of the  
People's Republic of  
China to New Zealand,  
the Cook Islands & Niue

Ambassador Wang was born in Tianjin, China and holds a PhD in Economics. He also studied at University of Kent, United Kingdom (1988-1989).

He started working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MFA) in 1987 followed by various positions at Department of International Organizations and Conferences, MFA including as APEC SOM leader for China (2004-2007), and as Minister Counsellor & DCM at Embassy in Singapore (2008-2010) and Ambassador in Mongolia (2010-2015).

He was Special Envoys for G20 and BRICS affairs, MFA (2016-2018) and Director-General of Department of International Economic Affairs, MFA (2018-2021).

Ambassador Wang arrived in New Zealand at the end of 2021.



**HE Mr Tom Udall**  
Ambassador of the  
United States of America  
to New Zealand, Samoa,  
Niue & the Cook Islands

Ambassador Udall has had a long and distinguished career in public service championing the interests of Native American groups as well as conservation and environmental protection.

He served New Mexico in elected office for more than two decades as the state's Attorney General and in the House of Representatives. Prior to elected office, he served as a federal prosecutor and Chief Counsel to the New Mexico Department of Health and Environment.

In 2018, Ambassador Udall received the Sierra Club's top award for public officials, the Edgar Wayburn Award, for his leadership on environmental issues.

Ambassador Udall arrived in New Zealand in November 2021 and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Law as well as a Juris Doctor. He and his wife, Jill Cooper, have one daughter.



**Mr Ockchae YOON**  
Chargé d'affaires of  
the Embassy of the  
Republic of Korea to  
New Zealand

Mr. Ockchae Yoon joined the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1997, and had served as Director for Research Administration Division at Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Deputy-Director for Administration, Planning and Management Bureau.

He had been assigned to Korean Consulate General in New York, USA and ROK Embassies in Libya, Brunei and Tanzania.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Theology from Seoul Theological University, Korea.

He arrived in New Zealand in August 2022 and is married with three daughters.



## Global Cities New Zealand Youth Subcommittee



**Taylor Marston**  
GCNZ Director,  
Auckland

Taylor has an academic background in sister cities, having completed his master's thesis on sister city relationships shared between Japan and Aotearoa New Zealand. He currently resides in Tāmaki Makaurau and is pursuing a PhD in the field of community development, once again focusing on sister city relationships.

Taylor has a strong passion for the "Think Global, Act Local" doctrine and is eager to promote the actions of sister cities and their importance in contemporary society, especially to today's youth. Taylor also teaches classes in the Japanese, and Social Sciences and Public Policy departments at Auckland University of Technology.



**Surbjit Singh**  
Wellington

Surbjit (Subby) Singh is currently in her final year at Victoria University of Wellington, studying towards

a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science and Criminology.

One of her biggest aspirations in life is to make a difference and implement change regarding issues in New Zealand as well as around the world. She is incredibly passionate about furthering her study in topics such as intelligence and the criminal justice system.

Subby has been fortunate enough to have been placed in two internships where she has learnt many skills that she truly values. Although still very new to the organisation, Subby is very honoured to be a part of the GCNZ youth subcommittee.



**Elisha Hsiao**  
Youth Advisor,  
Porirua

Elisha is a Product Manager at FarmIQ, an agriculture technology software company. She also practices Immigration and Refugee Law as she enjoys making a difference in individuals' lives. She is a member of the Asia NZ Foundation's Leadership Network and previously a recipient of the French Embassy's Hexagone Scholarship.

Originally from Taiwan, Elisha spent half her life in New Zealand and she has lived in France for six months during her university exchange. Elisha is a firm believer that fostering friendships around the world from a grassroots level is a great way to learn about other cultures to promote a tight-knit relationship between countries. Sister Cities relationships are ways to achieve this. Elisha organised and led the GCNZ's inaugural Youth Tour to 5 cities in China in 2018.



**Miko Morris**  
Wellington

Miko is an ethnic Chinese and raised by New Zealand father and Japanese mother, who has been actively involved in sister city activities from which Miko has developed an appreciation of the benefits in having an understanding of diverse cultures.

She achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award and also awards from the Victoria Plus Program and Victoria International Leadership Programme. She graduated last year with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in International Relations and Chinese.

She welcomes the opportunity to contribute as a member of the Youth Subcommittee in achieving the objectives of GCNZ.



## Global Connections and Diversity through Citizen Diplomacy – How to reconnect with our global partners?

**Facilitator: Darren Ludlaw**



**Suzi Duffin**  
Student Coordinator,  
Hutt S/C Foundation

In 2011, our son was selected for the student exchange to Tempe, Arizona the following year. We had no idea how all our lives were about to change!

Seeing the impact of the program, and seeing potential areas we could add value, we joined the Hutt Sister Foundation Committee, and since 2015 Paul, my husband, has been President, and I've been the Student Co-ordinator. Through our Sister Cities program, we have worked closely with 5 student exchange groups – and become firm friends with them and their families.

We take great pride in the positive changes we see in our students during and after this experience.



**Michael Stevens**  
Chair of Korean  
Cinerama Trust

Michael is a Wellington based Commercial and Film Lawyer and has been closely involved supporting the development of New Zealand's film production and digital entertainment sector and its links with Asia. He has a personal and professional interest in the future of Asia Pacific Film and Media, including the development and funding for film, documentary, animation, and other digital media projects including international art exchanges.

Michael's interests include acting as Legal Counsel for a number of New Zealand film and animation Companies. He is currently the Chair of the Korean Cinerama Trust, a Trustee of the Urban Art Foundation and a Member of the Wellington/Seoul Advisory Group. He is also a former Chairman of the Korea New Zealand Business Council, Board Member of the NZ Film and Literature Board of Review, and International Delegate for the Shanghai International Film Festival.



**Andrew McGeorge**  
Christchurch-Kurashiki  
S/C Committee

Andrew studied Japanese at high school and at university alongside accountancy. He first visited Kurashiki at age 17 before going on the JET programme there in 1989, where he met his future wife, Kate, who was also on the JET programme from Kurashiki's American sister city, Kansas City. Both of their children were born in Kurashiki and consider both sister cities to be second homes.

With the support of Kurashiki City, Andrew completed a MA TEFL/TESL from the University of Birmingham before returning to New Zealand in 1999. He went on the JET programme for a second time in 2006/2007 to Okinawa.

Back in New Zealand, Andrew has been a small business entrepreneur constantly drawing on experiences in Japan and involved with farming, manufacturing, real estate and marine brokerage. Andrew is also a lifelong sailor.



**Teresa Chan**  
Chair of Dunedin  
Shanghai Association

Teresa Chan is the Chair of the Dunedin Shanghai Association. The Association supports the sister cities relationship between Dunedin and Shanghai and wider China. Teresa has been on a number of delegations to Shanghai representing Dunedin City.

She is also the President of the NZ Chinese Association - Otago & Southland Branch whose members are Chinese in her region, and is part of the executive of the national Association.

She is a practising lawyer in the areas of Immigration, Property & Business Law. She is also a member of the Institute of Directors.



## 2022 Significant Anniversary Presenters



**Jack Chaney**  
Christchurch City  
Council

Jack Chaney is an Advisor in the Christchurch City Council's Civic & International Relations Team. He is responsible for a range of portfolios including Sister Cities, broader China relationships, and Christchurch's International Relations Policy Framework. He is passionate about the value that international connectivity can deliver for the city's wellbeing and prosperity.

In July 2022, Jack was part of the Christchurch 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary delegation visit to Sister City Adelaide. He is looking forward to sharing insights with Forum attendees about this visit, one which ultimately set the tone for how Christchurch will seek to travel as a city in future.



**Bevan Killick**  
Chair of Christchurch  
– Christchurch UK  
Sister City Committee

Bevan Killick is a chartered accountant and professional director. He held senior roles in the Lloyd's of London insurance market and since returning home has been appointed to a number of Crown, corporate and Not for Profit boards.

Bevan holds the rank of Honorary Captain in the Royal New Zealand Navy and been recognised as a World Class New Zealander by KEA, the Kiwi Expat Association. He is a Liveryman of the World Traders' Livery Company and a Freeman of the City of London.



**Christchurch – Adelaide (Australia)**  
**Christchurch – Christchurch (UK)**  
**Auckland – Los Angeles (USA)**



**Palmerston North – Missoula (USA)**  
**Auckland – Utsunomiya (Japan)**  
**Whanganui – Toowoomba (Australia)**



**Auckland – Kakogawa (Japan)**  
**Palmerston North – Guiyang (China)**



**Auckland – Tonga**  
**Wellington Region – Zhejiang Province (China)**





**Mayor Nadine Taylor**  
**Marlborough District Council**

Nadine is serving her first term as Mayor of Marlborough after having served six years an elected Councillor, including three years as Deputy Mayor. She has a degree in Political Science and History and a Post Graduate Degree in History, from the University of Canterbury.

Nadine took part in one of the early Marlborough / Otari Village, (Nagano, Japan), Sister City exchange programmes when at the end of 1990 she travelled to Otari to work for a winter season on the ski slopes of Tsugaika. It was also there that she first met her husband-to-be, Graham, giving Otari and Japan a special and personal place in her heart.

Nadine and Graham were fortunate to be able to take their first trip back to Japan in 2019, in celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They travelled widely across Japan and then spent a week in the Otari villages of Tsugaika and Hakuba where they revisited the place where they met and where they worked. They were able to reconnect again with old friends and workmates – proving the strength of Sister Cities in fostering enduring global relationships and friendships.

IN APPRECIATION



**GLOBAL CITIES**  
**NEW ZEALAND**

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity



**Hiromi Morris**  
**Emeritus President &  
Forum Coordinator**

Thank you for attending the Forum which is much appreciated. Covid pandemic has closed down our world for the past 3 years, but now the borders are opening and it's time for us to reconnect with our global partners.

I hope we provided an opportunity for all of us to share stories and to discuss how we can further develop people-to-people connections through citizen diplomacy for the benefit of the diverse community of Aotearoa New Zealand.



**Sarah Ma**  
**Administrator**



**Caroline Pope**  
**Editor/Designer**

**Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. operating as Global Cities New Zealand**

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*Save the Date*



**GLOBAL CITIES  
CONFERENCE**

**2023**

**BLENHEIM  
7 & 8 NOVEMBER**





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